

LGBTQIA+ Ministry & Engagement Annual Report

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." (Psalm 139:13-14)

Mission:

To share Christ's unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial, redemptive, and transformational love to the members of the LGBTQIA+ communities.

Report:

2023 is proving to be a very difficult year for our LGBTQIA+ siblings, particularly for our trans community. Over 50 anti-LGBTQ bills were filed in Missouri and laws limiting (or banning) gender-affirming care and trans athletes were passed into law. As we move toward the 2024 presidential election, yet again the anti-LGBTQIA+ rhetoric is on the rise to encourage turn-out among conservative, right-leaning voters. Please take a moment to reach out to the LGBTQIA+ people around you to share your love and support. We need it!

Somewhat related, it was my great honor to accept the call from Bishop Deon to serve as the new Missioner for LGBTQIA+ Ministry and Engagement in June of this year. Unfortunately, the role became open when Bren O'Connor, for her personal safety, moved out of Missouri due to recent anti-trans legislation being passed into law. I am grateful for all she has done and wish her well. Her departure is a tremendous loss for our Diocese.

Since moving into the role, I have been working with The Rev. Erin Pickersgill and Doris Lucy-Goodlow to establish a community for LGBTQIA+ youth in the Diocese, which we plan to launch this fall. I also had the pleasure of working with The Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, St. John's Tower Grove, to host an ecumenical "Mass on the Grass" as part of Tower Grove Pride. Nearly 40 people were in attendance. Finally, several updates were made to the Diocesan webpage for LGBTQIA+ Ministry, and a Facebook group was created.

Looking toward the future, I am working with the Province V Coordinator, the Rev. Heather Barta, to create workshops for LGBTQIA+ Allyship and/or Creating a Welcoming Church for LGBTQIA+ People for the 2024 Big Provincial Gathering next April in Indianapolis. I look forward to continuing conversations with LGBTQIA+ people, clergy, and others in the Diocese to better understand the needs and hopes in people's hearts so that we can cocreate our future together.

Faithfully yours,

DeWayne Trainer,
Missioner for LGBTQIA+ Ministry & Engagement

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