



The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

LGBTQIA+ Committee

The LGBTQIA+ Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania wants to help Queer youth, Queer adults, their parents, and their families find an affirming spiritual home within our faith community.

Below you will find a variety of free online resources we have identified that might help you, your families, and your children learn more about LGBTQIA+ issues and their intersections with spirituality. If you have further questions or would like to discuss finding affirming community and support within the Episcopal Church, please feel free to contact us at lgbtqia@diopa.org!

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Definitions, Terms and Concepts

An Ally's Guide to Terminology: Talking About LGBT People & Equality

https://www.glaad.org/sites/default/files/allys-guide-to-terminology_1.pdf

From GLAAD. "Designed for new allies who want to support LGBT Americans but often face an array of confusing terminology and language, this short guide offers an overview of essential vocabulary, terms to avoid, and a few key messages for talking about various issues."

Glossary of Terms

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>

From the Human Rights Campaign, a glossary "written to help give people the words and meanings to help make conversations easier and more comfortable."

The Language of Gender

<https://www.genderspectrum.org/articles/language-of-gender>

From Gender Spectrum. "Precise use of terms in regards to gender can have a significant impact on demystifying many of the misperceptions associated with gender."

The Defining Series

<https://www.mykidisgay.com/defining-series>

Asking “but what does it mean?”, an extensive series that seeks to “unpack various terms and identities.”

The Genderbread Person

<https://www.publichealthpost.org/databyte/genderbread-person/>

A teaching tool that helps communicate “the distinct, disconnected spectrums of gender identity, gender expression, biological sex, sexual attraction, and romantic attraction along which people might place themselves.”

Gender Unicorn

<https://transstudent.org/gender/>

A similar teaching tool, created “to recognize genders outside of the western gender binary.”

Resources for Parents

What if My Child is Gay?

<https://understandinggay.org/>

From the Association for Family and Community Integrity, a resource for parents who are new to the language surrounding LGBTQIA+ topics.

My Kid is Gay

<https://www.mykidisgay.com/>

Information, education and advice for parents or family members with LGBTQIA+ children.

Our Children: Questions and Answers for Parents and Families of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning People

https://pflag.org/sites/default/files/Our%20Children_2021.pdf

From PFLAG, a helpful booklet that “focuses on providing support for parents, caregivers, families, and friends of people who are LGBTQ+, with an emphasis on sexual orientation and gender expression.”

LGBTQ Youth & Family Resources To Decrease Mental Health Risks & Promote Well-Being

<https://lgbtqfamilyacceptance.org/>

From the Family Acceptance Project, a portal to find LGBTQ services and support.

Breathe, Learn, Act: An e-Care Package for Parents & Loved Ones of Trans Youth

<https://www.mykidisgay.com/breathe-learn-act>

A guide to help parents learn about transgender and non-binary identities.

Transgender Children & Youth: Understanding the Basics

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/transgender-children-and-youth-understanding-the-basics>

From the Human Rights Campaign, brief guides for parents on questions such as ‘is my child transgender?’ or ‘is my child gay or lesbian?’ and ideas on how to support your transgender child.

Our Trans Loved Ones: Questions and Answers for Parents, Families, and Friends of People Who Are Transgender and Gender Expansive

https://pflag.org/sites/default/files/OTLO_2019.pdf

A comprehensive guide from PFLAG covering childhood, adolescence and adulthood.

Talking to Grandparents and Other Adult Family Members

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/transgender-children-and-youth-talking-to-grandparents-and-other-adult-family>

From the Human Rights Campaign, a brief guide on how to handle “the more difficult conversations parents of transgender children face.”

Supporting & Caring for Transgender Children

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/supporting-caring-for-transgender-children>

A comprehensive guide from the Human Rights Campaign on how to care for gender-expansive and transgender kids.

Parenting - HRC

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/parenting>

Other parenting resources from the Human Rights Campaign.

Resources for Families of LGBTQ+ People

<https://www.pflagnyc.org/families/resources-for-families/>

From PFLAG NYC, guides in English and Spanish for families and “anyone who wants to understand LGBTQ+ issues better.”

Talking About Suicide

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/category/talking-about-suicide/>

From The Trevor Project, guides discussing risk factors, warning signs and what we can do to “play a vital role in ensuring that all young people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, are provided with safe, accepting, and supportive environments at home, at school and in their communities.”

Resources for Allies

Supporting the Transgender People in Your Life: A Guide to Being a Good Ally

https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/Ally-Guide-July-2016_0.pdf

From the National Center for Transgender Equality, a straightforward guide listing ways to be a good ally in different arenas of life.

Understanding Non-Binary People: How to Be Respectful and Supportive

<https://transequality.org/issues/resources/understanding-non-binary-people-how-to-be-respectful-and-supportive>

From the National Center for Transgender Equality, tips on how to be an ally to non-binary people.

A Straight Person's Guide to the Coming-Out Conversation

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/a-straight-persons-guide-to-the-coming-out-conversation_b_5726180

A “good, comprehensive FAQ that prepares the receiver of the coming-out conversation to respond.”

A Guide to Being an Ally to Transgender and Nonbinary Youth

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/guide/a-guide-to-being-an-ally-to-transgender-and-nonbinary-youth/>

A resource providing “best practices on how to support transgender and nonbinary young people.”

Local Organizations and Institutions

The William Way Community Center

<https://www.waygay.org/>

A wonderful regional resource and locus for community building. Inside the William Way umbrella are groups focused on Trans and Gender identities, Queer youth, and The LGBTQIA+ Elder Initiative (<https://lgbtelderinitiative.org/>), which is a separate organization lobbying and advocating statewide for education and access and equal treatment for us as we age. The Elder Initiative is scheduled to have a statewide virtual summit on October 6-7, 2022 (<https://lgbtelderinitiative.org/2022/09/06/registration-is-open-for-the-2022-pennsylvania-lgbtq-aging-summit/>).

The Attic Youth Center

<https://atticyouthcenter.org/>

This Philadelphia institution is dedicated to creating “opportunities for LGBTQ youth to develop into healthy, independent, civic-minded adults within a safe and supportive community and to promote the acceptance of LGBTQ youth in society.”

Philly AIDS Thrift @ Giovanni's Room

<https://www.queerbooks.com/>

Founded in 1973, the original Giovanni's Room is the oldest LGBTQ bookstore in the country and remains a great source of books and other resources.

Rainbow Room

<https://www.salemstrong.org/rainbow-room>

A program of Planned Parenthood Keystone, located at Salem United Church of Christ in Doylestown, the Rainbow Room is an “LGBTQIA youth program that provides a supportive and empowering environment for youth ages 14-21.”

Eastern PA Trans Equity Project

<https://www.patransequity.org/>

This organization “provides direct services to transgender and gender-diverse Pennsylvanians” including name changes, gender-affirming garments and support groups.

Local Gender Care Centers

Mazzoni Center

<https://www.mazzonicenter.org/>

A center that provides “quality comprehensive health and wellness services in an LGBTQ-focused environment, while preserving the dignity and improving the quality of life of the individuals we serve.”

Penn Medicine Program for LGBTQ Health

<https://www.pennmedicine.org/for-patients-and-visitors/find-a-program-or-service/lgbtq-health>

Penn’s center is “designated as a ‘Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality’ by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, and firmly believes that LGBTQ patients deserve access to respectful, compassionate and equitable health care at all times.”

Nemours Children’s Health - Gender Wellness Program

<https://www.nemours.org/services/gender-wellness.html>

Nemours’s center provides “a wide range of services for kids and teens who are looking for help with their gender identity development and/or transition.”

Main Line Health - Gender Care Program

<https://www.mainlinehealth.org/specialties/gender-care-program>

Main Line Health’s center promotes “optimal health and well-being for transgender, gender diverse, and nonbinary individuals.”

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia -

<https://www.chop.edu/centers-programs/gender-and-sexuality-development-program>

CHOP’s center offers “psychosocial and medical support for gender nonconforming, gender expansive and transgender children and youth up to age 21 and their families.”

National Organizations

PFLAG

<https://pflag.org/>

An organization with chapters around the country that seek to “provide support, information, and resources for LGBTQ+ people, their parents and families, and allies.”

Gender Spectrum

<https://www.genderspectrum.org/>

Provides “free online groups for pre-teens, teens, parents, caregivers, and other family members and adults” to create supportive communities.

The Trevor Project

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

“The world’s largest suicide prevention and crisis intervention organization for LGBTQ young people.”

Campus Pride

<https://www.campuspride.org/>

An organization “for student leaders and campus groups working to create a safer college environment for LGBTQ students.”

National Center for Transgender Equality

<https://transequality.org/>

An organization that “advocates to change policies and society to increase understanding and acceptance of transgender people.”

Faith-Based Organizations, Denominations and Directories

Faith-Based Organizations

<https://www.strongfamilyalliance.org/hopeful-voices/faith-based-organizations/>

From Strong Family Alliance, an extensive directory of organizations including denomination affiliated and non-denominational.

Gay Church

<https://www.gaychurch.org/>

A site featuring “the largest welcoming and affirming church directory in the world.”

Transfaith

<https://www.transfaith.info/>

A national nonprofit that is led by transgender people and focused on issues of faith and spirituality.

UMC Reconciling Ministries Network

<https://rmnetwork.org/resources/>

Resources from the United Methodist Church's Reconciling Ministries Network.

Faith-Based Resources

Faith Ally Materials

<https://straightforequality.org/faithmaterials>

From Straight for Equality, a program of PFLAG, resources such as "10 Things You Can Do to Be a Straight Ally in your Faith Community" and "Faith in our Families: Parents, Families and Friends Talk About Faith, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity."

Faith-Based Resources

<https://lgbtqfamilyacceptance.org/faith-based-resources/>

A guide from the Family Acceptance Project focused on "connecting LGBTQ youth and families with affirming faith communities, resources, religious and spiritual leaders and places of worship."

Freed Hearts

<https://www.freedhearts.org/>

Deconstruction resources that launched from Susan Cottrell's popular TED Talk.

Religion & Faith

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/religion-faith>

From the Human Rights Campaign, resources including "What does the Bible say about homosexuality?", "What does the Bible say about transgender people?" and "Coming Home: To Faith, To Spirit, To Self", a guide "aimed at folks who hope to lead their faith communities toward a more welcoming stance, and those seeking a path back to beloved traditions."

True Faith Doesn't Bully

<https://tylerclementi.org/true-faith-doesnt-bully-2/>

From the Tyler Clementi Foundation, a campaign to end religion-based bullying.

Religion and Asexuality Overview

<https://theacetheist.wordpress.com/2014/09/12/religion-and-asexuality-overview/>

A collection of links, including content on "what it's like to be asexual in religious contexts."

Faith and Religion

<https://www.theproudtrust.org/young-people/faith-and-religion/>

From The Proud Trust, “A space to explore what it’s like to be LGBT+ and have a religion, faith or belief.”

Believe Out Loud

<https://www.believeoutloud.com/>

An online network that empowers Christians to work for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality.

LGBTQ & Faith - Study Resources

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1p6EgDVk34_KUt6LOZ3XKfYWhG6CP_ySn/view

Affirming theology, video, books and other resources from the United Methodist Church’s Reconciling Ministries Network.

Walter Brueggemann: How to read the Bible on homosexuality

<https://outreach.faith/2022/09/walter-brueggemann-how-to-read-the-bible-on-homosexuality/>

Walter Brueggemann is a leading Old Testament scholar and an author of nearly 150 books.

Queer Theology

<https://www.queertheology.com/>

Lots of resources, including the series “How you can know that it’s really OK to be LGBTQ and Christian.”

Homosexuality and the Bible

<https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/2019/6/25/homosexuality-and-the-bible>

A short look at the heart of the gospels and the issue of homosexuality. This article is a good place to begin if you are looking for a way to explain to your LGBTQIA+ child that they are indeed included and loved in the scriptures.

Trans religious leaders say scripture should inspire inclusive congregations

<https://www.npr.org/2022/09/25/1124101216/trans-religious-leaders-say-scripture-should-inspire-inclusive-congregations>

NPR article on how “pro-trans voices are emerging within Christianity.”

LGBTQ Liturgy Resources

<https://enfleshed.com/liturgy/lgbtq-related>

Liturgies from enfleshed, which “creates and facilitates spiritual resources for collective liberation through prayer, liturgies, art, meditations, teaching, and other resources.”

Struggle and Triumph: Close Friendships with LGBTQ+ Christians Help a Mother Embrace Her LGBTQ+ Son

<https://www.strongfamilyalliance.org/resources/struggle-and-triumph/>

From Strong Family Alliance, a mother shares how her friendships helped her experience “tremendous pride and joy” in her son.

Issues of Faith

<https://www.strongfamilyalliance.org/parent-guides/parent-guide-gay/issues-of-faith/>

From Strong Family Alliance, suggestions to help parents as they reconcile questions of faith.

Dealing With the ‘Clobber Passages’ in the Bible

Responding to the ‘Clobber Passages’

<https://www.genderspectrum.org/articles/faith-resources-clobber>

From Gender Spectrum. How to respond to the Bible passages that some use “to argue that gender diversity doesn’t or shouldn’t exist.”

UnClobber

<http://www.unclobber.com/>

From Colby Martin, the author of *UnClobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality*. His site includes cheat sheets that walk through each of the ‘clobber passages.’

Amy-Jill Levine: How to read the Bible’s “clobber passages” on homosexuality

<https://outreach.faith/2022/09/amy-jill-levine-how-to-read-the-bibles-clobber-passages-on-homosexuality/>

Amy-Jill Levine is a leading biblical scholar and the author of books such as *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*.

Books

Gay Church Bookstore

<https://www.gaychurch.org/bookstore/>

An extensive listing of affirming books.

20 Books for Parents of LGBT Kids

<https://bookriot.com/books-for-parents-of-lgbt-kids/>

Fiction, non-fiction, and memoir books for parents of LGBTQ youth.

UnClobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality

<https://bookshop.org/books/unclobber-rethinking-our-misuse-of-the-bible-on-homosexuality/9780664262211>

By Colby Martin

Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians

<https://bookshop.org/books/transforming-updated-and-expanded-edition-with-study-guide-the-bible-and-the-lives-of-transgender-christians/9780664267865>

By Austen Hartke

Transfigured: A 40-day journey through scripture for gender-queer and transgender people

<https://bookshop.org/books/transfigured-a-40-day-journey-through-scripture-for-gender-queer-and-transgender-people/9780986408038>

By Suzanne DeWitt Hall

In the Margins: A Transgender Man's Journey with Scripture

<https://bookshop.org/books/in-the-margins-a-transgender-man-s-journey-with-scripture/9780802879486>

By Shannon T. L. Kearns

God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case in Support of Same-Sex Relationships

<https://bookshop.org/books/god-and-the-gay-christian-the-biblical-case-in-support-of-same-sex-relationships/9781601425188>

By Matthew Vines

Beyond a Binary God: A Theology for Trans Allies*

<https://bookshop.org/books/beyond-a-binary-god-a-theology-for-trans-allies/9780898690057>

By Tara K. Soughers

THE HANDBOOK: A Quick Conversation Guide to What the Bible Does and Does Not Say About Homosexuality

<https://www.amazon.com/HANDBOOK-Quick-Conversation-Guide-Homosexuality/dp/173222949X>

By Will Horn

What the Bible Really Says about Homosexuality

<https://www.amazon.com/What-Bible-Really-about-Homosexuality/dp/188636009X>

By Daniel A. Helminiak

Peculiar Faith: Queer Theology for Christian Witness

<https://bookshop.org/books/peculiar-faith-queer-theology-for-christian-witness-9781596272507/9781596272507>

By Jay Emerson Johnson

Radical Love: Introduction to Queer Theology

<https://bookshop.org/books/radical-love-introduction-to-queer-theology-9781596271326/9781596271326>

By Patrick S. Cheng

Gender Identity Workbook for Teens: Practical Exercises to Navigate Your Exploration, Support Your Journey, and Celebrate Who You Are

<https://bookshop.org/p/books/gender-identity-workbook-for-teens-practical-exercises-to-navigate-your-exploration-support-your-journey-and-celebrate-who-you-are-andrew-maxwell-tris/15763061>

By Andrew Maxwell Trisca, LCSW

The Gender Quest Workbook: A Guide for Teens and Young Adults Exploring Gender Identity

<https://bookshop.org/p/books/the-gender-quest-workbook-a-guide-for-teens-and-young-adults-exploring-gender-identity-rylan-jay-testa/12405205>

By Rylan Jay Testa, Deborah Coolhart and Jayme Peta

View an extensive bibliography of Queer Theology resources prepared by the LGBTQIA+ Committee under the leadership of Rev. Thomas Eoyang here. [LINK OUT TO PDF.]

Videos

Parents Reconciling Network Virtual Porch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKi9xt4gnLM&list=PLirW3GIVHv-PmnsucBsAvFqlczbZwMihI>

Videos from the United Methodist Church for parents of LGBTQIA+ youth on topics like gender identity.

Recekah Bruesehoff

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=16v4H70hqRk>

From an Youth Gathering event of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Transfigurations – A Performance Lecture about Gender Non-Conforming Bible Characters

<https://petersontoscano.com/bible-folk-taught-overlook/>

A video from Peterson Toscano that helps illuminate Bible characters. “Toscano’s one-person performance deepens well-known (and lesser-known) Bible stories and presents an array of Bible characters with an array of genders.”

Reading the Bible From a Trans and Nonbinary Perspective

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZiWkD8x_-c

From the Eastern PA Trans Equity Project, scholar Joy Ladin “explores how transgender and nonbinary identities fit into the Bible.”

Podcasts

The Bible for Normal People

<https://thebiblefornormalpeople.com/>

Hosted by Pete Enns, a biblical scholar and professor at Eastern University, and Jared Byas.

Episodes of interest:

Interview With Austen Hartke: the Bible & the Lives of Transgender Christians

<https://thebiblefornormalpeople.com/the-bible-the-lives-of-transgender-christians/>

Interview With Megan Defranza: the Bible and Intersex Believers

<https://thebiblefornormalpeople.com/b4np-podcast-episode-19-bible-intersex-believers-megan-defranza/>

Queer Theology's Weekly Bible Podcast

<https://www.queertheology.com/listen/>