



Our “Here We Are. Send Us!” resource-sharing series was designed to equip congregations and individuals to stand with and for four groups who are especially at risk of being harmed by the new administration: immigrants, LGBTQ folks, women seeking reproductive health care, and the environment.

Part 2, on February 13, focused on responding to the threats of harm to the LGBTQ+ community. We shared the following resources during that meeting.

SECULAR ORGANIZATIONS

EqualityMaine has been working since 1984 to protect and advance full equality for all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer Mainers by creating an inclusive and intersectional movement through political action, community building, education, engagement and collaboration.

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

The EQME website page “**Your Rights**” is an *excellent* source of information about how to prepare for and respond to the harm the current administration intends to do (and is already doing) to the LGBTQ+ community: <https://www.equalitymaine.org/protectyourrights/>

Maine TransNet is Maine’s only transgender-led and focused community organization. They provide peer-to-peer support groups, social and community events, advocacy for the transgender community across Maine, and training for medical, mental health, and social service providers. They engage transgender people and their allies across Maine in the practice of community building and organizing for mutual liberation.

<https://www.mainetrans.net/>

Out Maine creates more welcoming and affirming communities for Maine’s diverse queer kids and teens in all their intersectional identities by changing the systems that serve them. You can download “Know Your Rights” cards, and link to a new GLAD Law form for reporting bullying at school. <https://www.outmaine.org/> , <https://www.outmaine.org/resources/store/school/queer-and-trans-know-your-rights-cards-download/> , <https://www.outmaine.org/?s=bullying>

Pink Haven Coalition is a joint project of frontline trans organizers, progressive faith groups, and mutual aid societies across the United States who create a network for organizing housing and transportation for “passengers”—transgender people seeking to relocate (either temporarily or permanently), access gender-affirming care in safer states, or stay safer where they are.

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

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/relocation-help-trans-people-pink-haven-support-resources-how-it-works>

https://mainecouncilofchurches.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/PH_flier_3ways.pdf

https://mainecouncilofchurches.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/PHonesheet_final-1.pdf

GLAD Law New England uses cutting-edge legal strategies to ensure people can live and thrive here on their own terms, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, or HIV status. Their work includes strategic litigation, public policy advocacy, and education. GLAD Law will continue to use the law as a tool to slow, stop, and reverse harmful policies – and promote positive ones – and will continue to support the LGBTQ+ community with information about their rights and what steps they can take to protect them.

https://www.glad.org/?gad_source=1&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIgvTNkKWyiwMVI5RQBh1YuyAcEAAYASAAEgllfvD_BwE

The “**Know Your Rights and Protections**” page of their website (https://www.glad.org/lgbtq-protections/?utm_source=web&utm_medium=homepage) has detailed information for LGBTQ+ people under the current administration, including:

- [Protecting Your LGBTQ+ Marriage and Family](#)
- [Resources for New England Parents](#)
- [LGBTQ Paths to Parentage Security](#)
- [Transgender Health Care Questions](#)
- [School Resources for Youth In Maine](#)
- [Transgender ID Project](#)
- [Identity Document Updates for Transgender People](#)

GLAAD is a nonprofit advocacy organization that works through entertainment, news, and digital media to share stories from the LGBTQ community that accelerate acceptance.

<https://glaad.org/>

[GLAAD Weather Watch](#) offers action alerts on how to help defeat bad legislation put forward by anti-LGBTQ+ extremists.

Article by Maine attorneys Evi Englert Woodlin and Carli Labrecque of Bernstein Shur, **Safeguarding Yourself, Your Family, Your Legacy: A Post-Election Guide for LGBTQ+ Mainers**,

<https://www.bernsteinshur.com/what/news/safeguarding-yourself-your-family-and-your-legacy-a-post-election-guide-for-lgbtq-mainers/> (Note: Since January 28, 2025, the U.S. State Department is “setting aside” any passport applications requesting gender change, which means they are holding all documents submitted with these applications (passport, birth certificate, etc.).)

FAITH-BASED RESOURCES

Scripture

Nothing can separate us from the love of God. (Rom 8:38)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7-8)

For you created my inmost being, God; 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)

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28)

...God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean. (Acts 10:28)

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch... seated in his chariot, reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it... And the eunuch invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ...As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them went down into the water and Philip baptized him. (Acts 8:26-31) *Note: this is the first baptism of a Gentile recorded in the bible.*

After David had finished talking with Saul, Jonathan became one in spirit with David, and he loved him as himself. (1 Samuel 18:1) [David says of Jonathan,] "Your love for me was wonderful, more wonderful than that of women." (2 Samuel 1:26).

Now [Jacob] loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and Jacob had made Joseph a *ketonet passim*--a long robe with sleeves (Genesis 37:3), the kind of garment the virgin daughters of the king wore. (2 Samuel 13:18)

Ecumenical organizations

Believe Out Loud is an online community that empowers Christian advocacy for LGBTQ equality.
<https://www.believeoutloud.com/>

Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion advances the well-being of LGBTQ people and seeks to transform faith communities and the wider society by taking a leading role in shaping a new public discourse on religion, gender identity, and sexuality through education, research, community building, and advocacy.
<https://www.clgs.org/>

Flaming for Jesus is a nonprofit organization offering programs and resources to nurture the spiritual and mental well-being of the LGBTQ+ community affected by religious trauma and discrimination. Their origin story has roots in the Metropolitan Community Church movement. Their long-term initiative is development of a retreat and wellness center, "A Space in Grace."
<https://www.flamingforjesus.com/home>

LGBTQ Religious Archives is an electronic information clearinghouse for collections and historical data about LGBTQ religious history. This virtual archive includes the “**Queer Spirit**” podcast that was begun in Portland, Maine, and features Rev. Dr. Marvin Ellison and Rev. Tamara Torres McGovern.
<https://lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/>

Our Bible is an app that seeks to uplift all believers with devotionals that are pro-LGBTQ+.
<https://www.ourbibleapp.com/>

Human Rights Campaign **Out In Scripture** is an online resource that places comments about the Bible alongside the real-life experiences and concerns of LGBTQ+ people of faith and their allies.
<https://www.hrc.org/resources/out-in-scripture>

The National LGBTQ Task Force’s “**Queering Faith**” program provides resources and support to constituents who affirm the need for equity for all LGBTQ people as an inherent value of their faith. This work emphasizes re-shaping the faith narrative in the media and in public spaces by underscoring that LGBTQ people exist as shapers of religious communities and influencers in our society.
<https://www.thetaskforce.org/programs/queering-faith/>

Transforming Hearts Collective provides online programs for individuals, congregations, faith groups, organizations, and other groups on radical welcome and culture shift, healing justice, queering spirituality, and pathways to liberation. They offer a 3-6 session online course, “Trans Inclusion in Congregations,” and a “People of Faith Defend Trans Lives” training.
<https://www.transformingheartscollective.org/online-courses>

Queer Theology is the longest running podcast for and by LGBTQ Christians, people of faith, and spiritual seekers.
<https://www.queertheology.com/listen/>

Whosoever is an online magazine for LGBTQ Christians.
<https://whosoever.org/>

Denominational Resources

EPISCOPAL CHURCH:

The canons of the Episcopal Church prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, providing equal access to the rites and worship of The Episcopal Church, including ordination, and prohibit discrimination in the ordination process based on gender identity and gender expression. The canons permit any couple the rite of Holy Matrimony.

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/organizations-affiliations/lgbtq/>

Episcopal **liturgical resources** including marriage ceremonies and a service of renaming:
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/organizations-affiliations/lgbtq/liturgical-resources/>

Gender Justice Jam is a 12-week education and formation series that informs and equips advocates for gender justice.
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/organizations-affiliations/lgbtq/gender-justice-jam/>

TransEpiscopal is a group of transgender, nonbinary, and allied Episcopalians dedicated to fostering the full embrace of trans and nonbinary people, and our loved ones within the Episcopal Church and to inspiring faith-based advocacy for trans and nonbinary justice in the wider world.
<https://www.transepiscopal.org/>

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA:

The ELCA has passed repeated resolutions to welcome LGBTQ+ people since 1991. The denomination celebrates the gifts of LGBTQIA+ Lutherans and acknowledges the struggles many are enduring against those who want to take away their civil and human rights. Their presiding bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, has called on the church to recognize and affirm the humanity of transgender and nonbinary individuals and faithfully advocate for their dignity. While the Churchwide Assembly has not come to agreement on the issue of marriage equality, the ongoing debate has prompted a policy that gives autonomy to individual ministers and their congregations, resulting in the celebration of same-sex marriages at many ELCA churches across the country. LGBTQ+ pastors have been ordained by the ELCA since 2010.

<https://www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/resources-for-the-lgbtqia-community>

Reconciling Works is an independent Lutheran membership-supported organization for the full welcome, inclusion and equity of LGBTQIA+ Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their church, congregations and community.

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

The **Reconciling in Christ Program** is a process of discernment that can lead to accreditation for ELCA congregations, synods, colleges, seminaries, and other Lutheran organizations and ministry communities that have made a public commitment to welcome, include and celebrate LGBTQIA+ people.

<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA:

The PCUSA celebrates the gifts of all gender identities and sexual orientations in the life of the church and affirms its commitment to the full welcome, acceptance, and inclusion of transgender people, people who identify as gender non-binary, and people of all gender identities within the full life of the church and the world. The General Assembly affirms the church's obligation to stand for the right of people of all gender identities to live free from discrimination, violence, and every form of injustice. In 2011, the PCUSA began ordaining LGBTQ+ persons to the ministry of Word and Sacrament, and in 2014 voted to allow same-sex marriage.

<https://pcusa.org/how-we-serve/inclusion-equity/lgbtqia-ministry>

More Light Presbyterians is a nonprofit organization that helps PCUSA congregations and their members build their capacity and develop new skills to deepen their welcome to LGBTQIA+ people within their churches and in their wider communities

<https://sites.google.com/mlp.org/tempsite/home>

Covenant Network of Presbyterians is a national network of congregations seeking equity that is still not fully realized for LGBTQIA people in church and society.

<https://covnetpres.org/>

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS):

Many Quaker communities are open and welcoming to LGBTQ+ people, and an increasing number take the marriages and unions of LGBTQ+ couples under their care. Others hold differing views on a wide range of LGBTQ+ issues, including non-discrimination, civil marriage rights, support for families headed by LGBTQ+ people, and spiritual equality. The Friends General Conference, one of three major national associations for Friends meetings and churches in the United States, issued a statement in fall 2004, "Minute on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Friends," emphasizing that LGBTQ+ people were welcome in their religious community. The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), an independent Quaker organization working nonviolently for peace, human rights and social and economic justice, has been involved in advocacy for

LGBTQ+ rights and recognition since the 1960s. The Religious Society of Friends has not reached unity on the issue of same-sex marriage.

Friends for LGBTQ Concerns is a North American Quaker faith community that “affirms that of God in all people.”

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION:

The UUA teaches that each person has worth and dignity, and that worth includes their gender and their sexuality. The UUA welcomes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities, values diversity of sexuality and gender, and sees it as a spiritual gift. The UUA creates inclusive religious communities and works for LGBTQ justice and equity as a core part of who they are.

<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq>

The Welcoming Congregations Program is a network of UU congregations who work to make sure LGBTQ people are full members of their UU faith community. The UUA believes that being welcoming means striving for radical inclusion and creating spaces that honor every part of people’s identities, backgrounds, and experiences.

<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program>

Uplift is an online platform where the UUA highlights LGBTQ+ issues and concerns by featuring related programming, reflections, and content circulated in a quarterly email newsletter.

<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/blog>

Uplift Programs offer gatherings and pastoral care space for trans and non-binary UUs.

<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/transnb>

The Five Practices of Welcome Renewal Program helps congregations update their LGBTQIA+ welcoming practices.

<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program/five-practices-welcome-renewal>

Side With Love’s **Uplift Action Campaign** encourages UU members to get involved and has recorded trainings and resources focused on trans and LGBTQIA+ community more broadly.

<https://sidewithlove.org/upliftaction>

Resources of Support for Trans and Non-Binary People is a page on the UUA website that lists dozens of education programs, advocacy groups, publications, videos and more.

<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/resources>

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST:

The first national UCC body to affirm civil rights for LGBT people did so in 1969. In 1972, the UCC ordained the first openly gay person into ministry and in 1985 the UCC’s General Synod declared itself to be “open and affirming” and called upon all settings of the church to become similarly poised to welcome LGBT persons as full members of the church. However, in the UCC, each local church has autonomy. This means the UCC is not organized in a hierarchical way and local congregations are not bound by the statements and positions of the national General Synod of the UCC. Therefore, there is some diversity among their members, local churches, and other settings regarding “Open and Affirming,” sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression.

https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/gsjm/lgbtqia/lgbt_about/

UCC **LGBT Resources** page includes a guide for congregations to participate in the Open and Affirming process:

https://www.ucc.org/what-we-do/wider-church-ministries/gsjm/lgbtqia/lgbt_resources/

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH:

In May of 2024, the governing body of the UMC (an international denomination) voted to lift decades-old bans on LGBTQ clergy and on pastors performing same-sex weddings. They also removed the language that said homosexuality was “incompatible with Christian teaching.” For years before that decision, the UMC had been at war with itself over its stance on gender identity and sexual orientation. However, it’s important to note that eight years earlier, in 2016, The New England Conference of the UMC passed a resolution to be in “nonconformity” with the denomination’s anti-LGBTQ policies, and openly defied those policies by ordaining LGBTQ clergy, allowing clergy to perform same-sex weddings, and installing a female interim bishop who is married to a trans woman. As of January 1, 2025, the official stance of the denomination as a whole is that sexuality is a “sacred gift” for all persons, “regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.”

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-the-churchs-position-on-homosexuality>

Reconciling Ministries Network is a coalition of individuals, ministries, and local churches who are committed to working for the full participation of all LGBTQ+ people throughout the life and leadership of the UMC.

<https://rmnetwork.org/>

The United Methodist Alliance for Transgender Inclusion exists to challenge The United Methodist Church (UMC) to live into its policy of being a church free from gender discrimination at every level by equipping and empowering people to transform the church and society into places that celebrate gender diversity.

<https://rmnetwork.org/united-methodist-alliance-for-transgender-inclusion/>

Safe Sanctuaries: Inclusion and Hospitality for LGBTQ Youth is a resource to help congregations reduce the risk of harm and abuse for this vulnerable population.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/inclusiveness-and-hospitality>