



# Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

May 2023

## SUPPORTING 2SLGBTQIA+ ADVOCACY AND FULL INCLUSION IN THE USA

By taking on the life and mind of Christ, you increasingly view yourselves and others from a changed perspective. Former ways of defining people by economic status, social class, sex, gender, or ethnicity no longer are primary. Through the gospel of Christ a new community of tolerance, reconciliation, unity in diversity, and love is being born as a visible sign of the coming reign of God.

As revealed in Christ, God, the Creator of all, ultimately is concerned about behaviors and relationships that uphold the worth and giftedness of all people and that protect the most vulnerable. Such relationships are to be rooted in the principles of Christ-like love, mutual respect, responsibility, justice, covenant, and faithfulness, against which there is no law.

—Doctrine and Covenants 164: 5, 6a

In April 2013, the USA Community of Christ National Conference voted to support same-sex marriage and ordination for persons in same-sex marriages. It was a monumental and necessary step towards widening the circle of inclusion and unity in diversity. The journey towards full participation of 2SLGBTQIA+ persons in the life and ministry of our church is one of ongoing learning, listening, and loving. It requires courage to speak and act as advocates for justice with our 2SLGBTQIA+ siblings who are marginalized in communities both internally and externally.

**Currently legislation is emerging in many states in the USA that infringes on the freedom, rights, well-being, and worth of transgender persons. These actions lead to increased judgement, harassment, brokenness, ostracism, and even death among 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and adults. We are called, as people of faith, in this time and this place to be the incarnation of the One who loves us all – Jesus Christ. We cannot be silent.**

### LEARN MORE:

- “Attack on LGBTQ+ Rights” <https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights>
- “A Guide to Gender” <https://guidetogender.com/>
- Harmony’s Recommended Resources <https://www.harmony.lgbt/recommended-resources.html>
- PFLAG Website <https://pflag.org>
- Movement Advancement Project Website <https://lgbtmap.org/resource-page>

### DO SOMETHING:

- Write to legislators. <https://www.fcni.org/resources/write-effective-emails-congress>

- Review Harmony’s “10 Step Action Plan.” <https://www.harmony.lgbt/news/harmony-responds-to-surge-in-proposed-anti-trans-legislation-with-action-plan>
- Become a Welcoming and Affirming Congregation. <https://www.harmony.lgbt/waprogram.html>
- Start a book club in your congregation or mission center to learn more about 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion and advocacy.
- Join book clubs and groups already organized.
  - “Love Out Loud,” Sierra Pacific Mission Center <https://cofchrist-spmc.org/calendar>
  - “Coming Out Monologues,” co-sponsored by Greater Pacific Northwest Mission Center, Beyond the Horizons, and Harmony <http://chinook.cofchrist-gpnw.org/2023/05/09/coming-out-monologues/>

2SLGBTQIA+ stands for: Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, and the plus reflects the countless affirmative ways in which people choose to self-identify. Reclaimed by some who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+, the term Queer is an umbrella term for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

We encourage members and friends to join us in advocating for justice and upholding the worth and rights of 2SLGBTQIA+ persons in our communities.

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