



LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance

Statement of Support for Trans, Intersex and Nonbinary Missourians

We, the undersigned members of the LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance of Greater St. Louis, declare that all people are beloved and are created in the image of God—Holy and whole. Our interfaith coalition of more than 30 congregations and faith-based organizations from the greater St. Louis area believes that everyone should feel welcome, safe, and affirmed for who they are. We recognize and grieve the religious trauma—past and present—experienced by many of our LGBTQIA2S+ siblings, and we pledge to work toward reconciliation.

We also recognize a disturbing misconception within the halls of our state's Capitol that people of faith do not affirm the full spectrum of gender when, in fact, a great many of us do. Therefore, in response to the call of our faiths and in solidarity with those who are being harmed by policies and practices in Missouri, *we raise our voices to unequivocally proclaim the holiness of the entire spectrum of gender identity and expression, particularly transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people.*

Those in positions of power must stop demonizing transgender people and inserting themselves into matters that should rest solely with individuals, their families, and their medical professionals. The fear that many transgender children, their families, and their loved ones experience is unacceptable. We call on all leaders in the Missouri House, Senate, and Administration to abandon the persecution of our transgender citizens and to hold up the inherent dignity, worth, and agency of ALL people in our state.

We believe Missouri should be a place where every person, regardless of their identity, can thrive. Even as we grieve that this is not the present reality, we hold on to hope that we can work to make it so. This active hope is why we partner with organizations like PROMO, Missouri's leading public policy and advocacy organization for LGBTQIA2S+ people, as we organize against harmful legislation, including Amendment 3. It's why we work with community organizations to support queer youth. It's why we host queer artists and organizers at our events and invite community leaders in the LGBTQIA2S+ community to share educational presentations at selected monthly meetings.

We will continue to work alongside our LGBTQIA2S+ siblings, their families, and other allies until Missouri becomes a safe and welcoming place for everyone. To our transgender neighbors, we say, "YOU are sacred and holy. We love and support YOU. No matter what any politician or pundit says, YOU make Missouri a better place." Our communities stand with you.

In solidarity and hope,

Bethel Lutheran Church
Dorothy Day House Church
First Congregational Church
of Webster Groves United
Church of Christ
Grace United Methodist Church
Jewish Community Relations Council
of St. Louis
LuMin St. Louis Ecumenical Campus
Ministry
National Council of Jewish Women
St. Louis
Sts. Clare & Francis Ecumenical
Catholic Communion
Webster United Methodist Church
Rev. David A. Woodard
Rev. Dr. Carol Trissell

Christ Lutheran Church
Eliot Unitarian Universalist Chapel
First Unitarian Church of St. Louis
Grace United Church of Christ
O'Fallon, Missouri
Keshet: For LGBTQ+ Equality in
Jewish Life
Maplewood United Methodist Church
Parkway United Church of Christ
St. Louis Anti-Violence Project
St. John & St. James Episcopal
Church (Sullivan)
Pam Brown
Erlinda Perlado Mertens
Mary Beth Ohlms
Jean Weber
Rev. George Miller

Community Christian Church
Epiphany United Church of Christ
Gethsemane Lutheran Church (ELCA)
House of Figs
Kirkwood United Methodist Church
Metropolitan Community Church of Greater
St. Louis
Sisters of St Joseph of Carondelet
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis
Province
St. Stanislaus Kostka Polish Catholic Church
The Episcopal Diocese of Missouri
Barbara Buzzacco
Joan Mertens
Mark Valenzuela
Bill Weisrock
Rev. M. Christopher Boyer