

How can I support lgbt Mennonites?

Supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (lgbt) people means more than friendliness or private words – it means acting in solidarity for equality and an end to discrimination.

A person who acts in solidarity:

- ✓ Educates themselves about current issues impacting lgbt people.
- ✓ Expects to make mistakes, and does not use this as an excuse for inaction.
- ✓ Constructively challenges actions, words, policies and practices that are discriminatory, wherever they are found.
- ✓ Commits to the personal growth required, including being able to articulate patterns of oppression and privilege in one's own life.
- ✓ Connects with lgbt organizations and is not afraid of being associated with the lgbt community.
- ✓ Is willing to risk his or her own privilege.
- ✓ Works with the lgbt and allied community to empower lgbt people along the way.
- ✓ Believes that equality benefits all people.

In 2010:

Learn what it means to be a publicly affirming community, and help your congregation get there. See www.bmclgbt.org/scn.shtml, and read BMC's pamphlet *Why should my church become publicly affirming?*



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Suggested Resources:

Accompaniment: A Resource For Youth Leaders ¹

*Building an Inclusive Church: A Welcoming Toolkit*²

*Coming Out Strong: Information and Resources
for LGBTQA Brethren and Mennonite Youth* ¹

*Doing Process Well: Recommendations for
Mennonite Congregations* ¹

*Safe Zone: A Workshop Guide For Leaders and
Participants* ¹

*Taking a New Look: Why Congregations Need
LGBT Members* ³

¹ Available from www.bmcigbt.org or the BMC office

² Available from www.welcomingresources.org/welcomingtoolkit

³ Available from www.churchstuff.com/glbthospitality

Feel free to contact BMC with questions or comments. BMC is also available for consultations, assessments and trainings with congregations, denominations and other groups.

Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests
Box 6300, Minneapolis, MN 55406
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www.bmcigbt.org

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