

Why should my church become publicly affirming?

Contrary to what is often feared, congregations that welcome lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (lgbt) people find they benefit significantly in many ways.

Welcoming congregations:

- ✓ Gain the full range of gifts of lgbt people, their families and friends.
- ✓ Become safe places for youth who are struggling with issues related to sexuality.
- ✓ Free pastors to fulfill their pastoral commitments to all members of the congregation.
- ✓ Demonstrate a biblical hospitality that fosters growth and healing.
- ✓ Can stand firmly for human rights and justice for all people, with words that are consistent with practices.
- ✓ Gain the important insights of a minority group.
- ✓ Offer a model of faithful resistance and reflect an ability to make challenging decisions and work comfortably with conflict.
- ✓ Contribute to a positive image of Christianity, especially among young adults.

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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 Brethren
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.bmclgbt.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
(612) 343-2060
bmc@bmclgbt.org
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