

# FAITH & ADVOCACY

NETWORK

## LGBTQ Equality

LEAD:  
DAVID CULP

As Episcopalians, we believe in a loving, liberating, and life-giving God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe in following the teachings of Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection saved the world. We have a legacy of inclusion, aspiring to tell and exemplify God's love for every human being; women and men serve as bishops, priests, and deacons in our church. Laypeople and clergy cooperate as leaders at all levels of our church.

With an estimated 2.3 million members, the Episcopal Church is open and welcoming of the LGBTQ community. In 1976, both the House of Deputies and House of Bishops voted for a fully inclusive Episcopal Church, stating, "homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the church." Canon law includes "gender identity or expression" in its list of persons who are assured full access to the ministry of the church.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in America continue to face discrimination in their daily lives. While more states every year work to pass laws to protect LGBTQ people, we continue to see state legislatures advancing bills that target transgender people, limit local protections, and allow the use of religion to discriminate.

The first 100 days of the new presidential administration have seen numerous federal actions advancing protections and access to services for LGBTQ people. However, much work remains: Agencies must implement and robustly enforce newly clarified protections, support the programs and services needed for the safety and well-being of LGBTQ communities, and deliberately ensure that religious exemptions are not misused to harm LGBTQ people.

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## HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

City of Atlanta LGBTQ Affairs  
<https://atlgbtq.atlantaga.gov/home> [one of the best collections online. Links to local groups and up to date]

Lost and Found Youth:  
<https://lnfy.org/>

Georgia Equality:  
<https://georgiaequality.org/>

LEARN

*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

PRAY

Join LGBTQ Advocacy Groups working to advance fairness, safety, and opportunities for all God's children in Georgia:

- [georgiaequality.org](https://georgiaequality.org)
- [HRC.org](https://hrc.org)

ACT

Establish an LGBTQ issues group at St. Luke's

