Commission on LGBTQ+ Ministry

Members

Mr. Xavier Swain, Commission Chair
Ms. Holle Tubbs, Community Discernment Sub-Committee Chair *Bishop's Staff*

Mandate

R13-1 LGBT Ministry Commission

Resolved, the 107th Annual Council of the Diocese of Atlanta, meeting at Holy Innocents Church and School, Atlanta, November 8 and 9, 2013, supports our Bishop's stated vision to "draw the circle wider" through intentional and specific outreach to the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) community; and be it further

Resolved, that our diocese shall establish an LGBT Ministry Commission to coordinate ministries for and with LGBT Episcopalians, and to engage in ministry to the wider LGBT community throughout our diocese, and be it further

Resolved, that, in response to our baptismal promises to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being, the LGBT Ministry Commission shall provide resources for parishes as they explore and live into what it means to be welcoming and affirming toward LGBT persons.

R24-6 LGBTQ+ Educational and Listening Sessions

Resolved, the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, meeting in Annual Council in Atlanta, GA, November 8-9, 2024, direct the Commission on LGBTQ+ Ministry of the Diocese to conduct educational and listening sessions in each of the Convocations of the diocese. And be it further

Resolved that said educational and listening sessions shall include an update of The Episcopal Church's resolutions of General Convention, canons, and constitution regarding the status and rights of LGBTQ+ persons in the church and society. And be it further

Resolved that said educational and listening sessions shall gather testimony from the members of our church about the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ persons regarding discrimination, inclusion, and their relationship to the church. And be it further

Resolved that said educational and listening sessions shall be held during calendar years 2025 and 2026, with a report of their findings and recommendations to be made to the diocese on or before the 121st Annual Council to be held in 2027.

Summary of Work

In response to R24-6 adopted by the 118th Annual Council (2024), the LGBTQ+ Community Discernment Subcommittee is inviting LGBTQ+ people throughout the Diocese of Atlanta to share their experiences, perspectives, and hopes for the Church through an on. Through an online survey and a series of virtual listening sessions, we are gathering input to inform the scope, purpose, and priorities of the diocesan LGBTQ+ Commission, ensuring that its work reflects the needs and aspirations of the communities it is called to serve.

Our next online listening session will take place Wednesday, November 18, 2026, from 7:30-8:15p [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84195325390]. We encourage parishes, clergy, and ministry leaders to share invitations to the listening session widely with LGBTQ+ people throughout the diocese. We are particularly eager to hear from transgender and nonbinary people, whose perspectives are essential to shaping the Commission's future work. Additionally, the survey will be sent out to parishes via email; we encourage parishes to invite LGBTQ+ people in their parish communities to respond.

These conversations will inform recommendations to the Bishop on how the Commission can better support LGBTQ+ people and communities in the life and ministry of the Church.