

A large, stylized rainbow arc curves from the top left corner towards the bottom right, framing the central text. The colors of the rainbow are visible: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

**ST. ANDREW'S LGBTQIA+
AND ALLY COMMUNITY**

**RECONCILIATION,
EDUCATION,
RESOURCES & MORE**

ST. ANDREW'S BELIEFS AND MESSAGE

ST. ANDREW BELIEF

We embrace Jesus' message that God loves everyone and affirm that all persons are of sacred worth. We are proud to celebrate diversity as we work to live our vision of radical hospitality. We welcome people of every age, race, and gender identity; diverse nationalities, ethnicities, and sexual orientations; any family structure, economic reality, physical and mental ability, education, and faith history. While there are differences among us, we can love alike though we may not think alike. You are invited to join this nurturing community on a faith journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect.

Mission

To inspire spiritual maturity in outwardly focused Christians who love their neighbors and serve the common good.

Vision

To eradicate social isolation and disconnection by practicing the faithful presence of the incarnate Christ.

ST. ANDREW MISSION AND VISION

JUSTICE MINISTRY PURPOSE

We believe justice is a core teaching of Jesus Christ. Through education and community we're working towards creating a welcoming, safe, and anti-racist environment for Douglas County. Our baptismal vows as United Methodists include our commitment "to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves." The pursuit of justice and compassion are at the core of faithful action. As a community we seek to move beyond acts of mercy to transforming systems that perpetuate injustice and harm. Created in the image of God we seek to live in covenant with God, the world, and honor the dignity of all beings.

WHY RECONCILING?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE RECONCILING?

As Christians, we strive to follow Christ's example of welcoming and love for all. But the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church (the United Methodist book of rules and doctrine) contains unwelcoming language about gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender persons. This is the only group of people expressly made to feel unwelcome by official denominational statements, and the only group denied full rights of participation in the UMC.

To be reconciling simply means that we disagree with the unwelcoming language of our official denominational statements, and we choose instead to be inclusive of all people.

The Scriptures are the highest source of guidance in our faith. The Gospel shows us that God's love and character are most clearly expressed in the life of Jesus, who sought to create a community that went beyond our narrow conceptions of God to include everyone.

Like most churches that take this step, we engaged in prayer, study, and dialogue about the concerns of LGBTQIA+ persons in the church for a period of several months. During that time, a group of congregation members drafted the "Welcoming Statement" included above to reflect our stance. That statement was approved by the Leadership, after which an all-church vote was held to approve the statement. We're proud to say that it passed with an overwhelming majority.

HOW DID WE BECOME RECONCILING?

WHY RECONCILING?

WHY SINGLE OUT LGBTQIA+ PERSONS? WHY NOT JUST WELCOME EVERYONE?

We do welcome everyone. But the Reconciling Congregation movement highlights the open discrimination which LGBTQIA+ persons face in our church and society. In the United Methodist Church, LGBTQIA+ persons are the only social group for whom participation in some aspects of general church life is barred by church law. At the same time, we know that there are other persons and groups in our society with whom our churches must be reconciled. That's why we've adopted a welcoming statement that includes all persons "regardless of age, gender, race, class, ethnic background, mental or physical ability, or gender/sexual orientation."

Many churches and Christian leaders are public about their anti-gay actions and statements, so we feel that we should be just as public about being in ministry with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender, and gender expansive persons. The overwhelming perception within the LGBTQIA+ community today is that they are not welcome in churches. We want our publicity to help overcome that perception. Remember Jesus' statement about hiding your light under a bushel (Matt. 5:15)? We don't want to keep quiet about this! Our status as a Reconciling Congregation is something we celebrate.

WHY DOES THIS HAVE TO BE PUBLIC?

WHY RECONCILING?

DOES BEING A RECONCILING CONGREGATION MEAN THAT WE'RE AN ALL- GAY CHURCH?

No, it means that we're an "all kinds" church. At St. Andrew, you'll find people across the spiritual, political, and social spectrum. Most of us are native English speakers, but some are not. Some of us are politically conservative while others are liberal. Most of us have European ancestors, but some of us don't. Some of us understand the Bible in a fairly literal way, while others believe that the Bible is to be understood as an expression of the historical time and place it was written. Most of us are heterosexual, and some of us are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. But in the end, we have this in common: we think that diversity is God's good gift, and we celebrate it!

Yes. We're happy and proud to stand with congregations such as Arvada UMC, Mountain View Community Church, Christ Church UMC, Cameron Church, Belong Church, First UMC Boulder, and others. Also, the Western Jurisdiction (of which we are a part) recently voted to become a Reconciling Jurisdiction.

ARE OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES PART OF THE RECONCILIATION MOVEMENT?

LGBTQIA+ EDUCATION

GLOSSARY - GENDER

Gender - One's innermost concept of self as man, woman, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One's gender identity can be aligned with or different from their so-called 'sex' assigned at birth.

Sex - The assignment and classification of people as male, female, intersex, or another sex based on a combination of anatomy, hormones, and chromosomes. It is important we don't simply use "sex" to describe people's identity, because gendered characteristics in humans occur along a spectrum and because of its role in transphobia (sex doesn't always equal gender).

Transgender person - An umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the 'sex' they were assigned at birth. Being transgender does not imply any specific sexual orientation. Transgender people may identify as straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, etc. Transgender identity does not depend on medically transitioning through either hormone therapy or surgical interventions.

Cisgender person - A term used to describe a person whose gender identity aligns with the social and cultural expectations typically associated with the sex assigned to them at birth. The abbreviation cis may also be used. Cis-hetero or cishet refers to a straight cisgender person.

Gender Queer - Someone who does not follow binary gender norms. They may be non-binary, agender, pangender, genderfluid, or another gender identity.

Nonbinary - Someone whose gender identity blends elements of being a man or a woman, or a gender that is different than either male or female.

Intersex - A person born with sex organs, genetic coding and/or secondary sex characteristics which are a blend of typically male and female physical traits. "Intersex" refers to people who are born with any of a range of sex characteristics that may not fit a doctor's notions of binary "male" or "female" bodies.

Two-Spirit - A person who identifies as having both a masculine and a feminine spirit, and is used by some Indigenous people to describe their sexual, gender and/or spiritual identity. As an umbrella term it may encompass same-sex attraction and a wide variety of gender variance, undefined by Western culture.

LGBTQIA+ EDUCATION

GLOSSARY - SEXUALITY

Asexual - A person who experiences little or no sexual attraction or desire for other people. (Shorthand: Ace)

Lesbian - A cis or trans woman or woman-aligned person who is emotionally, romantically and/or sexually attracted to other women or non-men.

Gay - A person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to members of the same gender OR a man/male-aligned person who is emotionally, romantically or sexually attracted to other men or non-women.

Bisexual - A person who is emotionally, romantically, or sexually attracted to more than one sex, gender or gender identity though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way, or to the same degree. (Shorthand: Bi)

Pansexual - Someone who has the potential for emotional, romantic, or sexual attraction to people of any gender though not necessarily simultaneously, in the same way, or to the same degree. Overlaps with bisexuality.

Demisexual - A person who only experiences sexual attraction to people with whom a close emotional connection has been formed. Considered to be along the spectrum of asexuality.

Queer - A person who is not straight and/or cisgender. The term began as a slur, but has been reclaimed and used as a catch-all identifier and acknowledgement of unity under injustice by some in the LGBTQIA+ community.

Explore the complexity
and importance of
using the word
"Queer."

http://oldcambridgebaptist.org/images/Preface_QueerLessons_Sanders.pdf



**ESSAY ON
"WHY QUEER"**

LGBTQIA+ EDUCATION

WHAT DOES THE FLAG MEAN?

The LGBTQIA+ flag is continually evolving. The current flag evolved from the traditional badges as worn by LGBTQIA+ prisoners in Nazi concentration camps, paired with the transgender and gender expansive community, as well as intersex individuals. Each community also has their own flag in addition to the all-inclusive pride flag.

- Red represents life and passion
- Orange represents healing and fun
- Yellow represents sunlight and new ideas
- Green represents nature and growth
- Blue represents serenity and harmony
- Purple represents spirit and pride
- Black and Brown stripes represent LGBTQIA+ people of color
- White, pink, and blue stripes represent transgender and gender-expansive individuals.
- Yellow with purple circle represents intersex individuals and was added in 2021.



LGBTQIA+ MEDIA

NON-FICTION

- ***A Queer History of the United States***
 - Expanding American history to include the underground and prominent queer voices, experiences, and advocacy that has always been there.
- ***Bad Gays: A Homosexual History***
 - Expand and challenge the mainstream assumptions of sexual identity.
- ***Transgender History***
 - Covering American transgender history from the mid-twentieth century to today, Transgender History takes a chronological approach to the subject of transgender history, with each chapter covering major movements, writings, and events
- ***Stonewall: The Riots that Sparked the Gay Revolution***
 - Hundreds of interviews, an exhaustive search of public and previously sealed files, and over a decade of intensive research into the history and the topic, Stonewall brings this singular event to vivid life in this, the definitive story of one of history's most singular events.
- ***Gender Euphoria***
 - Various essays from trans, non-binary, and gender expansive people and the euphoria of finally connecting with their identity.
- ***The Pink Line: Journeys Across the World's Queer Frontiers***
 - Looking at the global fight and intersectionalities across the queer community globally
- ***We Have Always Been Here: A Queer Muslim Memoir***
 - A memoir diving into the complementary identities of being queer and Muslim.
- ***They Called Me Queer***
 - Essays about non-Westernized queerness
- ***Ace: What Asexuality Reveals About Desire, Society, and the Meaning of Sex***
 - An accessible guide to asexuality that shows the issues that ace people face—confusion around sexual activity, the intersection of sexuality and identity, and navigating different needs in relationships.
- ***Gender Queer: A Memoir***
 - A useful and touching guide on gender identity—what it means and how to think about it—for advocates, friends, and humans everywhere.
- ***Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth-Century America***
 - The compelling story of lesbian life in the 20th century, from the early 1900s to today's diverse lifestyles using journals, unpublished manuscripts, songs, news accounts, novels, medical literature, and numerous interviews.
- ***In the Dreamhouse***
 - An autobiography of domestic abuse within a same-sex relationship.

Find more at www.gostandrew.com/Justice-Resources

LGBTQIA+ MEDIA

FICTION

- ***Milk Fed***
 - A queer, Jewish girl living in Los Angeles navigates her relationships and eating disorder in her early 20s.
- ***Paul Takes the Form of a Mortal Girl***
 - Character able to shapeshift navigates politics and identity through 1990 United States.
- ***Detransition, Baby***
 - Three women—transgender and cisgender—navigate their deepest desires around gender, motherhood, and sex.
- ***You Exist Too Much***
 - A Palestinian American woman is caught between cultural, religious, and sexual identities.
- ***One Last Stop***
 - Time Travel with two women in the modern day and 1970s United States.
- ***The Song of Achilles***
 - Retelling of Achilles and his partner.
- ***The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo***
 - Historical fiction of a 1920s celebrity.
- ***Mad Honey***
 - Murder mystery and family dynamics.

DOCUMENTARIES/MOVIES/TV

- **Paris Is Burning** (Documentary; Max or Amazon)
- **Disclosure** (Documentary; Netflix)
- **The Life and Death of Marsha P. Johnson** (Documentary; Netflix)
- **How to Survive A Plague** (Documentary; Purchase anywhere)
- **Equal** (Docuseries; Max)
- **Moonlight** (R, Drama, Movie; Max or purchase anywhere)
- **But I'm a Cheerleader** (R, Comedy, Movie; Apple or purchase anywhere)
- **Call Me By Your Name** (R, Romance/Drama, Movie; Netflix)
- **Portrait of a Lady on Fire** (R, Romance/Drama, Movie; Hulu)
- **Brokeback Mountain** (R, Drama/Romance, Movie; Amazon)
- **Tangerine** (R, Drama, Movie; Max)
- **Sex Education** (R, Comedy, TV; Netflix)
- **Orange is the New Black** (R, Drama, TV; Netflix)
- **Euphoria** (R, Drama, TV; Max)
- **The L Word** (R, Drama, TV; Showtime)
- **She-Ra and The Princess of Power** (PG, Animated TV; Netflix)

Find more at www.gostandrew.com/Justice-Resources

LEARN MORE OR GET INVOLVED

BE PART OF THE JUSTICE MINISTRY

The Justice Ministry teaches classes, hosts events, and engages the community. Become an ally by being a leader in the community.

www.gostandrew.com/Justice



Attend informative classes, book groups, and events with a variety of topics that intersect.

www.gostandrew.com/Justice-Education

ATTEND CLASSES AND EVENTS

DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH

Before asking a LGBTQIA+ person for more information, especially on an identity they don't hold, check-out the resources already provided by St. Andrew.

www.gostandrew.com/Justice-Resources



Make an effort to understand your privilege and unpack what makes you uncomfortable. We all hold marginalized and oppressive identities. Learn about intersectionality and how identities overlap and interact.

Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack, 1989

ENGAGE IN SELF- REFLECTION

JOIN THE LGBTQIA+ ALLY GROUP

Join a new opportunity to build a network of allies at St. Andrew and across Douglas County. Or engage in other groups overseen by the Justice Council.

www.gostandrew.com/Justice-Groups



www.gostandrew.com/Justice



Our Welcome is Wide