

How Do We Handle & Deal with the LBGTQ+ Community?

Apostolic Assemblies of Christ, Inc.
Semi-Annual Pastors & Workers Conference
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Evangelist Leara Harvell - Presenter



APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLIES OF CHRIST, INC.



"Everybody Is Somebody"

**Bishop Bramlett Cooper - Presiding Bishop
Bishop Isaac Williams, D. Min. - Asst. Presiding Bishop
Bishop G.M. Boone, D.D. - Founder**

LGBTQ RIGHTS & PROTECTIONS

Federal Gov. Presidential Action: *Executive Order on Advancing Equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Individual* – President Joe Biden. The White House.gov.

Accessed 3.17.24

- <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/06/15/executive-order-on-advancing-equality-for-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer-and-intersex-individuals/>; ACLU is pushing Congress to Pass the Equality Act, it says the Equality Act (H.R. 5/S. 393), would finally provide explicit and comprehensive nationwide nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people – and update protections for all women and people of color.

Report: 2023 State Equality Index – A Review of State Legislation Affecting the LGBTQ Community and a Look Ahead in 2024. Published by the Human Rights Foundation in 2024.

<https://reports.hrc.org/2023-state-equality-index> Accessed 3.17.24

Human Rights Campaign, Resources: Laws & Legislation, State & Local Policy.

State Maps (that show laws & policies affecting LGBTQ+) Accessed 3.17.24 <https://www.hrc.org/resources/state-maps>

THERE IS EMPASSIONED LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY AND THEIR FAMILIES

Lambda Legal.Org - A collaboration of Lawyers representing the LGBTQ Community.

https://lambdalegal.org/?_gl=1%2A3r8jv3%2A_ga%2AMTY4MTg5MjUwMC4xNzA1MDI3ODM4%2A_ga_290ZG8GMP3%2AMTcwNTAyNzgZy4xLjEuMTcwNTAyODA0My42MC4wLjA

List of LGBTQ Rights Organizations in the United States (accessed 3.17.24)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_LGBT_rights_organizations_in_the_United_States_-_National

List of LGBTQ Rights Affiliate with Political Parties. (accessed 3.17.24)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_LGBT_organizations_that_affiliate_with_political_parties_-_United_States

Human Rights Campaign: Coming Out-Living Authentically as Black LGBTQ People

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/coming-out-living-authentically-as-black-lgbtq-people>; Reconciling Faith & Religion

https://reports.hrc.org/coming-out-living-authentically-as-black-lgbtq-people?_ga=2.206480659.1828821313.1711032941-342160983.1710729467_-_reconciling-religion-faith

THERE'S WIDE SPREAD SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY FOR LGBTQ RIGHTS!

ADVOCACY, SUPPORT, AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY & THEIR FAMILIES

Southern Poverty Law Center resources on LGBT+ <https://www.splcenter.org/search?keyword=lgbtq+>;
<https://www.splcenter.org/issues/lgbtq-rights>; Know Your Rights: Students & LGBTQ Rights at school
<https://www.splcenter.org/know-your-rights-students-lgbtq-rights-school>

Conversion Therapy: Fact over Fiction <https://www.splcenter.org/conversion-therapy-fact-over-fiction>;
<https://glaad.org/reference/conversion-therapy/>; judge orders cessation of conversion therapy
<https://www.splcenter.org/news/2019/06/12/judge-orders-conversion-therapy-provider-permanently-cease-operations-once-again>

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Know Your Rights for LGBTQ Students.
<https://www.aclu.org/documents/know-your-rights-lgbtq-students>; Laws and Legislation re LGBTQ
<https://www.aclu.org/legislative-attacks-on-lgbtq-rights-2024>; <https://www.aclu.org/issues/lgbtq-rights>

2023 LGBTQ+ Youth Report (How our Kids are affected) https://reports.hrc.org/2023-lgbtq-youth-report?_ga=2.100435358.1828821313.1711032941-342160983.1710729467

Faith Positions on LGBTQ: <https://www.thehrcfoundation.org/about/religion-faith-program>

So, as the Church, How Do We Handle and Deal With This Community?

1. Become and remain knowledgeable on this subject to stay abreast of how existing and evolving laws will affect the Church and Religion. *The Intersection of Religious Freedom & Homosexual Rights* (Accessed 2.25.24)
https://www.google.com/search?q=the+intersection+of+religious+freedom+and+homosexual+rights&oq=the+intersection+of+religious+freedom+and+homosexual+rights&gs_lcrp=EgZjaHJvbWUyBggAEEUYOTIHCAEQIRigAdIBCjEwMDEzN2owajmoAgCwAgA&client=ms-android-verizon-us-rvc3&sourceid=chrome-mobile&ie=UTF-8 - ip=1.
2. Preach the gospel of Jesus Christ – and hold to our firmly held biblically based doctrine as stated and supported by Scripture. The Word of God is an acceptable defense.
3. Know the position of your insurance provider – will it defend the church if it is sued because of something preached or publicly stated regarding the LGBTQ+ community?
 - Two examples: Brotherhood Mutual Insurance: Resources- Religious Freedom.
<https://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/resources/religious-freedom/> (GACOC Insurance provider)
 - Church Mutual Insurance Co., Legal Considerations for Houses of Worship (AAC Ins provider)
<https://www.churchmutual.com/index.cfm?pid=17529&cat=legalconsiderations - start>
Church Mutual is more vague on whether it will cover a claim vs Church. In Recognizing your Liability Risks, it offers a brief blurb on page 16 of what can lead to liability.
4. ***How do we handle and deal with LGBTQ Community?*** We stay with the Word of God. As long as we stay with the Bible, Scripture, and the Word of God – we are not advancing our words – but God’s.
 - To the Saints - DON’T Defame: <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/legal/personal-injury/defamation-of-character/>