

***Statement of Support for LGBT Equality
from Buffalo Multi-faith Roundtable Co-sponsors***

We assemble today from churches, synagogues, temples, and community organizations, all united through Pride in the Pulpit, New York's faith-based network which openly advocates for equality and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and their families.

Through the generosity of Trinity Episcopal Church, we gather together at their church to pray for and reflect upon the work that we have ahead of us. The event will include presentations by a panel followed by discussion to help leaders and members of houses of worship become more effective in advocating for LGBT people and their issues. A multi-faith prayer, meditation, and worship experience, and then a dinner will follow. Together through prayer, contemplation, and conversation, we hope to strengthen the message that God has created each one of us, valuable and individual human beings, who are a part of one human family. As such, we are each called to reach out in love to one another and work to end injustice within the wider human community.

More than 60 clergy members and people of faith from the greater Western New York area will gather to discuss how we can strengthen our communities and enlarge our advocacy throughout our state. Though we may come from different religious perspectives, we are united in our commitment to advocate for LGBT equality. We believe that our communities benefit from diversity and will only gain by creating welcoming environments where LGBT members of our community can fully share their talents and energy.

As community leaders and ethical leaders, our perspective can help unaware people become justice advocates for the issues that impact LGBT people. To deny equality and justice for all people is to engage in discrimination. Discrimination is immoral.

We invite members of our community to work, pray, and advocate for an end to injustice within this human family, and we call upon you to join us in our witness for LGBT equality.

Amherst Community Church (UCC/DOC)
Church of the Good Shepherd
Church of Ascension Episcopal Church
Community of the Holy Spirit
Congregation Havurah
Empire State Pride Agenda – Pride in the Pulpit
First Congregational UCC Niagara Falls
Gay & Lesbian Youth Services
Good Shepherd Baptist Church
Rev. Sara D. Smith, Esq. (Pastor, Kenilworth United Church of Christ)
Men Of Color Health Awareness (MOCHA) Project
The National Conference For Community and Justice of Western New York
PFLAG Buffalo/Niagara
Pilgrim-St. Luke's United Church of Christ
Pride Center of Western New York
Riverside Salem UCC/DOC
St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral
Temple Beth Zion
Temple Sinai
Trinity Episcopal Church
UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns
Unitarian Universalist Church of Amherst
Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo
Unitarian Universalist Church of Hamburg
Unity Church of Practical Christianity
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Western New York Peace Center