

LGBTQ+ Working Document – February 2020

BACKGROUND

A 2015 Gallop Poll indicates that 3.6% of the Twin Cities population identifies as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender. The LGBTQ+ community is a diverse group of people. Those in the LGBTQ+ community can often struggle to find acceptance especially with people of faith. In addition, a large portion of Millennials are disassociating with institutional religion of their faith upbringing; a significant reason is based on how they see the LGBTQ+ community being treated (Fetch, 2014) by the institutional church. Those of faith can have a positive impact on the LGBTQ+ community in their desire to feel accepted, respected, and supported in their faith journeys.

OTHER PROVIDERS

Outfront MN, Pride – a Family Partnership, Reclaim, The Bridge for Youth, Avenues for Homeless Youth (LGBTQ+ Host Home Program) Youth and Aids Project, LGBTQ+ – Jewish Teens, Trans Forming Families, LGBTQ+ Catholic Youth Coalition, Queer People of Color Alliance, and others.

MISSION DISTINCTION

- The Justice Commission LGBTQ+ Connections Task Group builds connections between the CSJ community and LGBTQ+ persons and organizations by creating a faith-based welcoming and respectful community to positively support the LGBTQ+ Twin Cities Community.
- CSJs provide support and accompaniment to St Kates Pride students at their regular meetings.
- The CSJs for many years have participated in the Twin Cities Pride Parade as a visible sign of respect and solidarity.
- The CSJ Community had co-sponsored an LGBTQ+ Catholic Youth Summit with local Catholic high schools.

GAPS

- Education and awareness of issues facing LGBTQ+ youth and their families
- Active support in school curriculums
- Active support for LGBTQ+ students in Catholic high schools
- Advocacy and legislation for civil rights
- Welcoming places of worship

OPPORTUNITIES

- Continuing positive Catholic voice of support, including participating in the Pride Parade
- Continuing education of the CSJ Community on issues and welcome the LGBTQ+ persons
- LGBTQ+ issues and human trafficking, specifically injustices against trans-women
- Transgender inclusion in the church
- Faith-based resources for LGBTQ+ inclusion
- Explore and strengthen partnerships with above LGBTQ+ community resource providers
- Focus on millennial disengagement trends, specifically LGBTQ+ community welcome and support
- Advocate for LGBTQ+ mental health and suicide prevention resources at state and local levels
- Advocate at the Legislature for LGBTQ+ positive policies