

## Using These Resources

*The Welcoming Journey*

How any congregation can use these and other resources to journey towards the welcome of all.

<http://disciplesallianceq.org/journey>

## Top Resource For Building Welcoming Church

*Building an Inclusive Church Toolkit*

The resource for starting your congregation's journey towards Open & Affirming.

<http://disciplesallianceq.org/toolkit>

## Top Resource For General Introduction

*For the Bible Tells Me So*

Five very normal, very Christian, very American families discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child.

<http://disciplesallianceq.org/tellsmeso>

## Top Resource For Welcome in the Bible

*Hearts Unbound*

Explores ten Biblical stories of welcome.

<http://disciplesallianceq.org/unbound>

## Top Resource For In-Depth Bible Study

*God vs Gay*

A thorough, academic, yet personal and readable analysis of the Biblical texts used when discussing LGBT issues.

<http://disciplesallianceq.org/godvsgay>

## Top Resource For Youth

*The God Box*

The fictional story of Pablo and Manuel who learn to navigate homophobia in their small town Texas high school and remain true to their families and the Bible.

<http://disciplesallianceq.org/godbox>

## Top Resource For Youth Suicide Prevention

*The Trevor Project*

Creating safe space and safe community for youth.

<http://disciplesallianceq.org/trevor>

## Top Resource For Transgender

*Out of the Box*

Transgender people of faith courageously tell their stories of hope, healing and wholeness.

<http://disciplesallianceq.org/voices>

## Top Resource For African American Churches

*Umoja*

Facilitates safe discussion about human sexuality in African American churches.

<http://disciplesallianceq.org/umoja>

## Top Resource For Asian Churches

*Valuing Families*

Bible study on LGBT concerns with a focus on Asian cultural understandings of family.

<http://disciplesallianceq.org/valuingfamilies>

## El mejor recurso para Las Iglesias Hispanas

*A la familia*

Una conversación sobre nuestras familias, la Biblia, la orientación sexual y la identidad de género.

<http://disciplesallianceq.org/lafamilia>

**Setting a place at the table  
for persons of all gender  
expressions and sexual  
orientations.**

## Why "All Are Welcome" isn't enough...

### 10 Reasons to Welcome Openly

- ◆ Is welcome your church's best kept secret? You sang it at youth camp: "Hide it under a bushel? Oh No!"
- ◆ Hebrews 13:2 says "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."
- ◆ A welcome mat belongs outside your door, not inside.
- ◆ Welcome saves lives: young people are hurting and dying. LGBT youth suffer higher rates of depression, substance abuse, homelessness and suicide due to homophobia and rejection.
- ◆ In the media, the church is portrayed as judgmental, homophobic, and prejudiced. If you don't say anything, no one will think you're any different.
- ◆ There's a teen living next door to your church who is hurting and doesn't know that your congregation can help.
- ◆ Micah 6:8 says "What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Welcome is the foundation of a deep spirituality. Diversity brings life and wholeness to the church.
- ◆ Too often, 'All' means 'white, male and straight.' If you don't name me, I don't know that I'm welcome.
- ◆ In most churches, "All Are Welcome" means "Everyone who is already like us." To welcome fully, everyone needs to be named explicitly.
- ◆ 1 John 4:7 says "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

An Open & Affirming process is a time of prayer, Bible study, sharing, community building, and reflection that opens your congregation to a welcome that includes all.

Disciples AllianceQ's Open & Affirming Ministry Program has resources and training to bring more welcome to your congregation in a way that builds community and increases understanding.

[www.disciplesallianceq.org](http://www.disciplesallianceq.org)

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The Mission of the Open & Affirming Ministry Program is to build a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that welcomes persons of all gender expressions and sexual orientations to the table of Christ's communion and to the full life and leadership of the Christian Church.

**Open & Affirming**  
**LGBTQ+ Ministries**