

Standing in Solidarity with Transgender friends & their families

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 1314 SW Park Ave. Portland OR 97201 – Prayer vigil Nov 10, 2024



**“Becoming open + affirming is not a destination.
It is an ever-evolving process of welcoming wider and
loving deeper.”** – Disciples AllianceQ+



A word about Celebration and Lament...

While we celebrate that FCC has been officially open & affirming for 9 years, we also lament the pain and fear that so many in the LGBTQ+ community face every day.

A time of Silence...

A Ringing of Bells...

Five ringers will each ring a bell 9 times, honoring FCC's 9th anniversary of being O&A The total of 45 chimes calls us to lament that there have been 45 anti-trans laws passed in the US in 2024.

www.translegislation.com tracks **anti-trans bills that seek to block trans people from receiving basic healthcare, education, legal recognition, and the right to publicly exist.**

Legislative attacks continue

We're documenting an explosion of anti-trans bills. 2024 is the fifth consecutive record-breaking year for total bills considered. This follows the unprecedented surge in 2023, which tripled the record set the year before.



Anti-trans bills under consideration and passed, 2021-2024

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Worth Celebrating

Portland First Christian Church has been tacitly open & affirming for much longer than 9 years. Along the way, this faith family has been home to a number of gay men, lesbian women, nonbinary adults and kids, and trans people. In addition to past and present LGBTQ+ members, many of our heterosexual, cisgender folks have family and friends who are Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Queer and they are passionate allies. We view the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Good News for ALL people. **God loves you the way you are!** YOU are made in the image of God. YOU are beloved.

FCC officially became an O&A Open & Affirming congregation on November 9, 2015.

FCC was homebase for the Northwest Queer Chorus when they were formed in 2016 as the first Queer-identified, Queer-named chorus in the Western Hemisphere. We currently provide space for the Pacific Northwest Rainbowbility Chorus.

Where do the Disciples of Christ stand?

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is covenantally based. Each congregation discerns God's leading in their local setting and ways to embody God's love for all people. FCC Portland is part of the Oregon / Southwest Idaho Region. Our "national" body is the General Church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. The General Assembly has adopted / approved numerous resolutions including:

***2005** – GA0514 – Denouncing Hateful Speech and Action Aimed at Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Persons, and Renewing Our Commitment to the process of Discernment ***2013** – GA 1327 - Becoming a People of Grace and Welcome to All ***2019** – GA 1929 - Invitation to Education for Welcoming & Receiving the Gifts of Transgender & Gender-Diverse People ***2023** – GA2352 – Invitation to Oppose Anti-Trans Legislation and Affirm the Dignity of Transgender & Gender-Diverse People

What Can I Do?

Learn more. **Read** about transgender legislation to understand the deep impact anti-trans laws have. Spend time **LISTENING** to LGBTQ+ folks. **Honor** their stories with a willingness to stay silent waiting for them to speak and strive to listen deeply to their lived experience. **Show respect** by consistently learning and using proper pronouns as a way to honor someone's true sense of self. **Pray** for the Trans community, especially youth and their families. **Become politically engaged** if you choose. Attend rallies, vigils, **stay informed** on pending legislation and write lawmakers to speak up in support of the LGBTQ community locally and nationally. The ACLU is currently engaged in legal cases that reflect their priority to protect the rights of LGBTQ people. **Engage** with the Poor People's Campaign – A National Call for Moral Revival.
www.poorpeoplescampaign.org

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Join the Disciples AllianceQ+ and draw on their resources to continue learning and working as a person of faith in alliance with our LGBTQ+ kin.

www.disciplesallianceq.org

The above was produced for FCC members for the prayer vigil on 11/10/24 ... (The 2 pages were printed front/back as a handout that was included in the Sunday bulletin...)

Members stood on the historic church steps – holding numerous PRIDE flags and photos of transgender individuals lost to anti-trans violence in 2024. Those same images are being posted in the front windows of the church leading up to TDoR on 11/20. Source: Human Rights Campaign at [HRC | Fatal Violence Against the Transgender and Gender-Expansive...](#)

Photos shared on Facebook. You're welcome to use as needed.

The next page has additional information which we ended up not including on the handout. Source: www.translegislation.com

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Extra information not included on handout...

Category overview - Education and healthcare bills make up more than half of all bills considered in 2024. Visit www.translegislation.com to learn about the categories, see the various states that have passed or are considering legislation and read detailed information on the individual bills themselves. Here are the number of bills in each category.

EDUCATION 198 - These bills target educational settings. They aim to deny students name and pronoun autonomy, forcibly out trans students to their parents, and ban basic gender identity education, among other goals.

HEALTHCARE 184 - The number of bills seeking to prohibit gender-affirming care — **medical care supported by every major medical association** — has surged in recent years. Many seek to outlaw care for minors and adults, and others would impact insurance coverage or access to services.

SPORTS 61 - Sports bills target athletics in K-12 and higher education. They seek to codify sweeping definitions of gender and sex. Over one third of states have already passed laws banning transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity.

PERFORMANCE 29 - The performance category grew quickly in 2023, targeting gender non-conforming events and the businesses that host them. However, the language of the laws is so broad that it could extend to performances of Shakespeare.

BATHROOM 28 - Nearly a decade after North Carolina's infamous HB2, bathroom bills continue to be proposed. This category captures bills that would restrict access to public facilities.

OTHER CATEGORIES: child abuse 2 - employment 2 - military 4 - birth certificates 9 - marriage 14 - incarceration 14 - civil rights 48 - other 71