



March 2017

Dear friends in faith,

The cause of justice and inclusion for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer children of God has changed since 2005, when Presbyterian Rainbow formed as an LGBTQ advocacy group within Albany Presbytery. Since that time the Presbyterian Church (USA) has adopted more inclusive policies regarding ordination and marriage. Sadly, within civil society expressions of discrimination and hatred appear to be on the rise.

Within this past year, Presbyterian Rainbow has concluded that local congregations must be the centers of action for pushing against the tide of hatred and witnessing God's welcome to the LGBTQ persons in our local communities. In this new context, we envision Presbyterian Rainbow no longer as a separate organization initiating actions (such as GA overtures), but rather as a network connecting congregations with each other and with allied groups in civil society.

Your congregation has a vital role to play as part of this network. Presbyterian Rainbow publishes a list of "Welcoming Churches" on our website and in a brochure distributed at the annual Capital Region Pride Parade in Albany and on other occasions. You may view the list on our website at: <http://presrainbow.org/index.php/resources/welcoming-churches/> If your church does not appear on this list and you would like to be added, or if your information has changed, please let us know via email. If your church is already listed, we will continue the listing unless and until we receive a request to modify or discontinue your listing.

Presbyterian Rainbow will no longer:

- offer a separate paid ad on behalf of our "Welcoming Churches" in publications of the Pride Center of the Capital Region. We encourage you to consider taking out an individual ad for your congregation, or joining the interfaith list of "Welcoming Congregations" that is free. Contact for the "Welcoming Congregations" ad is Richard Angelo: fairwood312@yahoo.com
- send annual mailings about "welcoming opportunities." We will maintain network contacts through our email list, which you and other members of your congregation are welcome to join, if you are not already on the list. Please keep the list in mind for sharing your information and news throughout the network.

Finally, we encourage your congregation to increase your public witness by formally allying with the national network of More Light Churches, which currently includes six congregations in Albany Presbytery: <http://presrainbow.org/index.php/resources/become-more-light/> Information on becoming a More Light Church is available at: <https://mlp.org/join-as-church/>.

We hope you will join us in continuing prayer for a church and a society that live out the promise of God's love for all!

Judy Moyer, on behalf of Presbyterian Rainbow
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Please send any listing changes to:
listing@PresRainbow.org