



COLLECTIVE OF QUEER
CHRISTIAN LEADERS

Ash Wednesday Statement

We are leaders of faith-based organizations in the intersectional work of LGBTQIA2S+ justice. This is a statement from our organizations to the LGBTQIA2S+ people who are connected to our ministries. We can't mince words about what's happening here: we are under attack. But you are not alone, and you are not forgotten—not by our God, and not by us.

From the many traditions and denominations we represent, we are with you and among you. Your pain is our pain. Your hope is our hope.

The good news of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is defiant in the face of destruction. It will outlast every hijacking attempt, including this one by white Christian nationalists. You have heard your share of politicians, and pundits claim that your existence is in opposition to your faith. Know that just as you may confound the Empire today, Jesus confounded the Empire of his time and place.

- We oppose this administration's attempts to erase or criminalize transgender and nonbinary people.
- We oppose their violent cruelty, placing immigrants in extrajudicial detention facilities or sending them to nations where they'd likely be imprisoned or killed.
- We oppose the disintegration of safety nets that protect and uplift our neighbors, like the removal of access to healthcare and the denial of identities.
- We oppose the illegal and unconstitutional accessing of personal private data by unelected, unvetted, and unqualified personnel appointed by the President.
- We oppose the calculated dismantling and disruption to funding that protects the most vulnerable in our society, paid for by taxes such as Social Security and Medicare that keep millions of Americans out of poverty.

We live in a world designed to keep us divided, where trust and community have been stripped away but now is the time to rebuild, fortify, and fight back. We are Queer and Trans people who are immigrants (both chosen and forced). We are disabled, poor, and unhoused. We carry stories in many languages and span every generation. Our liberation is inseparable from one another's, as the Aboriginal activist Lilla Watson reminds us: "If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

Look around. Take stock of what our people need and what you can give. Leave no space for apathy. Let your mercy be an act of rebellion. And never forget: you are worthy of justice, as much as anyone else who walks this earth.

Know this: we are with you, not just in words but in action. This is a promise rooted in defiance and love. We are bound by faith, spirit, and the unshakable belief that we deserve better. We are organizing, advocating, and fighting back because no system, no proclamation, no oppressive project can separate you from the love of God, the love of community, or the power we hold when we rise together.

All One Body

Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists

Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests

More Light Presbyterians

Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ

Pride in the Pews

Q Christian Fellowship

Reconciling Ministries Network

ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation

Room for All

Transmission Ministry Collective