

BUILDING RESILIENT CONGREGATIONS ▶

LGBTQ+ Discernment Cohort



Across the United States, communities continue to grapple with visible and invisible struggles of poverty, stress, mental health, trauma and political divisiveness. How do we build resilient congregations equipped to walk alongside one another and their communities?

The C3I received a generous grant through the Eula Mae & John Baugh Foundation for 3-years to consult with 15-20 diverse congregations in three different ministries of hospitality.

The C3I will pilot curriculum on these topics in peer-learning cohorts with the long-term outcome of developing research-informed, evidence-based online certificate programs in each of these focus areas for future congregations.

◀ LGBTQ+ DISCERNMENT



The C3I values the reality that congregational membership and leadership includes members who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. Even more, the C3I recognizes the differing views that are prevalent among ministers, congregations, and denominations over interpretation of scripture and the position of the church in response to LGBTQ+ visitors and members, particularly with respect to

leadership and marriage.

From four years of research, the C3I developed an evidence-based “guide” for congregations desiring to walk through a process of discernment related to decisions concerning their inclusion practices specific to persons who self-identify as being a part of the LGBTQ+ population.

Questions for Consideration:

The C3I is called to support congregations in discerning best practices and process elements to utilize as they engage in difficult conversations regarding their inclusionary practices.

- Do you have congregants asking for clarity surrounding membership and leadership opportunities of LGBTQ+ persons in your church?
- Are your congregants challenging the church body to encourage more inclusive policies?
- Have you noticed an increased mental health concern of LGBTQ+ youth in your congregations due to lack of full affirmation and acceptance?

◀ INTERESTED? *Contact us.*

We understand that this work is often emotionally difficult and time consuming. However, we also strongly believe that it will lead to God’s children being cared for in a deeper and more holistic way. This unique pilot experience will utilize each cohort’s feedback and participation to shape the creation of a sustainable model: a finalized, online certification opportunity for future congregations to become better equipped around the topic of LGBTQ+ Discernment for years to come.

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