



5,000 People of Faith Call on Congress to Pass the Equality Act

As people of faith, we urge Congress to support the Equality Act. Our faith traditions teach us that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, straight, cisgender, and queer people are all created with sacred dignity and worth. We are taught to respect and love others as ourselves in our words, deeds, and laws. Now is the time to update our federal laws to respect and uphold the sacred dignity and worth of all people. In doing so, we will live up to our nation's values of freedom, equality, and opportunity for all.

In our country today, LGBTQ people—our neighbors, family, friends, and fellow congregants, and for some signatories, we ourselves— are at risk of being fired from a job, refused a place to live, refused service in a place of business, told to leave a bathroom, or refused critical medical care because of who they are or who they love. Discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity is unjust and immoral. We call on Congress to remedy this injustice by passing the Equality Act. This legislation ensures equal protection for all people on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

As people of faith, we believe it is possible to both protect LGBTQ people from unjust discrimination and uphold the freedom of religion. That freedom is one of our nation's most fundamental values, which is why it is protected in the Constitution and remains protected under the Equality Act. As people of faith, we rely on this freedom every day to hold the beliefs we choose and to practice our faiths free from discrimination. It does not give us the right to harm or discriminate against others or impose our religious beliefs on others. We value the freedom of religion and the freedom from discrimination, and we urge Congress to protect both by passing the Equality Act.

We believe equality is a right. Our nation's laws must uphold our values of loving and caring for our LGBTQ neighbors as ourselves. As people of faith, we have an obligation to be part of healing the world. We will not cease in pursuing our commitment to these values until Congress has passed legislation protecting all people from discrimination and fully funds enforcement of these protections. We lament the ways in which religion has been used throughout our nation's history to justify discrimination, including on the basis of race. We refuse to be complicit in attempts to use religion to marginalize LGBTQ communities.

We call on Congress to pass the Equality Act today.

Rev. Joe Parramore
New Journey Ministries
Quincy, FL

Rev. Paul Werner
St. Andrew United Church of Christ
Bradenton, FL

Rev. Ty Bradley
Sunshine Cathedral
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Rev. Kimberly Hyatt
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Dr. Elder Candace R. Shultis
King of Peace MCC
Saint Petersburg, FL

Rev. Kenneth Walsh
United Church of Christ
Yulee, FL

Rev. Adam Gray
Redeeming Church
Saint Petersburg, FL

Rabbi Greengrass
Miami, FL

Rev. Elder Brown
Metropolitan Community Churches
Sarasota, FL

Rev. Dr. Kitty Hahn-Campanella
Seminole, FL

Dr. Dawson Taylor
Naples United Church of Christ
Naples, FL

Rev. Russell Meyer
Florida Council of Churches
Tallahassee, FL

Rev. Felicia Bruce
Ft. Pierce, FL

Pastor Susan Rogers
Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Dr. Steve Harper
Retired
Winter Springs, FL

Sharon Harris-Ewing
United Church of Christ Florida
Naples, FL

Nancy Kathryn Griswold
Edgewater, FL

Rev. R.L. Gundy
Mt. Sinai Baptist Church
Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Jennifer Kopacz
Tallahassee, FL

Rev. Tom Holdcraft
St. Stephen Lutheran Church
Tallahassee, FL

Rev. Christy Temples
Thrive MCC
Monticello, FL

Rev. Rachel Gunter Shapard
Jacksonville, FL

Cantor Jesse Holzer
Jacksonville Jewish Center
Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Bryan Fulwider
Friends Talking Faith
Altamonte Springs, FL

Pastor Debreita Taylor
Orlando, FL

Pastor Avery Garner
St. Luke's Community Church
Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Beth Demme
Tallahassee, FL

Rev. Dr. Brian McLaren
Marco Island, FL

Pastor Phillip Baber
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Rev. Candy Holmes
Metropolitan Community Churches
Saint Petersburg, FL

Bishop Stanley McAllister
Lighthouse Church
Jacksonville, FL

Rev. David Jack
Venice, FL

Rev. Dee Graham
Unitarian Universalist Church, Sarasota
Bradenton, FL

Minister Keith Kastner
ULC ministry
Pensacola, FL

Rev. Candy
Saint Petersburg, FL

Rev. Esther Robinson
Saint Petersburg, FL

Rev. Dr. John Danner
Sanibel, FL

Rev. Robert Coats
Open Circle Church
Bellevue, FL

Rev. William McCall
Kissimmee, FL

Rabbi Mark Wieder
Jacksonville, FL

Rabbi Fred Natkin
Mateh Chaim
Palm Bay, FL

Rev. Sheldon Steen
Faith Presbyterian
Tallahassee, FL

Rev. William Hamilton
St. John's Lutheran
Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Pamela Everhart
United Methodist Church
Plant City, FL

Sheri Richardson
Palm Harbor, FL

Esther Garvett
Miami, FL

Jonathan Harwell
Orlando, FL

Clerk Greg Stemm
St. Petersburg (FL) Religious Society of Friends
Saint Petersburg, FL

Deacon Michael Karban
Ft Lauderdale, FL

Janet Blair
Lakewood UCC
Saint Petersburg, FL

Mr. Ted von Eiff
Catholic
Land O' Lakes, FL

Joe Snavelly
Brooksville, FL

Jim Loveland
Saint Petersburg, FL

Violet Kane
Fort Pierce, FL

Carollyn Taylor
Pensacola, FL

Thomas Peterson
Pompano Beach, FL

Desmond Eastup
Tampa, FL

Alison Smith
Niceville, FL

Ramon Bello
Hialeah, FL

Kipp Nelson
Miami, FL

Sarah McCarren
Pensacola, FL

Kate Lannamann
Osprey, FL

Dennis Gibson
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Colleen Lynn
Davenport, FL

Connie Tessmer
Tallahassee, FL

Swami Dhumavati
Sebastian, FL

Kathryn Kasten
Pensacola, FL

William Crabtree
Satellite Beach, FL

Brendan Boone
Port Orange, FL

George Fisher
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Eric Spears
Crestview, FL

Rev. Michael Hafele
Cape Canaveral, FL

Nicole Abdnour
Tampa, FL

Thomas O'Brien
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Georgia Fortner
Pensacola, FL

Jack Tull
Saint Augustine, FL

Kathleen
Jacksonville, FL

Leslie Mitchell
Rockledge, FL

Dr. Steven Blinder
Brandon Christian Church
Brandon, FL

Elizabeth Gilmore
Miami Beach, FL

Robert Fox
Ocala, FL

Claire Stiles
Saint Petersburg, FL

Doug Olander
Orlando, FL

Vincent Petta
Ocala, FL

Kris Smithem
Tallahassee, FL

Ellen Kentner
Wellington, FL

Gil Caudill
Havana, FL

Marybeth Morrison
The Villages, FL

Charles Thatcher
Boca Raton, FL

Lanson Andrus
Lady Lake, FL

Verra Roth
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Bruce Mulder
Clearwater, FL

Mary Pilafian
Miami, FL

Hannah Stewart
Leesburg, FL

James Forsythe
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Linda Pierce
Sarasota, FL

Verna Fausey
Leesburg, FL

Judith Bruce-Mangle
Gainesville, FL

Ronne Rogin
Palmetto, FL

Beverley Rogers
Casselberry, FL

Heather Jenkins
Orlando, FL

Kelly Libertelli
Cornerstone UMC
Naples, FL

April Pollack
Saint Cloud, FL

Jennifer Andrew
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

Kathleen Weaver
Clermont, FL

David Witwer
UMC
Orlando, FL

Archie Dixon
Jacksonville, FL

Jon Atchison
Winter Garden, FL

Dana Lloyd
Saint Augustine, FL

Jania Kadar
Tallahassee, FL

Lisa Hobbs
Clearwater, FL

Annetta Cepek
Homestead, FL

Alex Alpert
Miami, FL

Rev. Virginia Carle
Vero Beach, FL

Dr. The Parkes
Fort Walton Beach, FL

Grace Okerson
Hollywood, FL

Keith Dyer
Lakeland, FL

Alexandria Litras
Titusville, FL

Mrs. Anita DeBias
Port Richey, FL

Daniel Getz
Miami, FL

Nordin Weinberger
Pompano Beach, FL

Cindy Grimes
Ocala, FL

Pastor Susie Brenner
Beyond These Walls MCC
Punta Gorda, FL

Bridget Siegel-Fultz
Pinellas Park, FL

Wyatt Robinson
Tampa, FL

RevDr Brown
Vero Beach, FL

John Pegg
Fort Myers, FL

Nancy Birkhead
Palm Coast, FL

Janeane Reagan
Altoona, FL

John Giordano
BBUUC
Saint Johns, FL

Sydney Moeller
Riverview, FL

Susan Gore
UUC
Saint Petersburg, FL

Jennifer Rodzinka
Sebastian, FL

Steve Warren
Sarasota, FL

William Robinson
Orlando, FL

Dr. Rexford Thompson
UU Miami, FL
Key Biscayne, FL

Anna Bethea
Tallahassee, FL

Peg Roy
Auburndale, FL

Clifford Ellis
Davenport, FL

Faith Moeller
SeaGlass Church & Underground Network
Riverview, FL

Dixie Gibbons
Saint Cloud, FL

Kristyn Guernica
Key Largo, FL

Kolby Jernigan
Pensacola, FL

Holly Acord
Casselberry, FL

Kelly Vineyard
Newberry, FL

Alison Carville
Fort Myers, FL

Kelly Scott
Naples, FL

Lynn Fonfara
Beverly Hills, FL

Shelly Rose
Winter Park, FL

Jaime Chmura
Bradenton, FL

Mark Gebhardt
Jacksonville, FL

Michael Quimby
Miami, FL

Antony Larry
Orlando, FL

Heather Vega
Gotha, FL

Brenda Tillit
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Anunnaki Marquez
Orange Park, FL

Douglas Johnson
Gainesville, FL

Jey Cruz
Hialeah, FL

Gabriel Barrera
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Dan Nelson
Panama City, FL

Dr. Jim Merritt
Orlando, FL

Cynthia Sweet
Indialantic, FL

Rev. Bryan Demeritte
Wesley Chapel, FL

Chris Soucy
Saint Petersburg, FL

Kimberly Shiff
Melbourne, FL

Merri Morris
Orlando, FL

Cathy Emmett
Sarasota, FL

Anne Crowley
Melbourne, FL

Victor Ramos
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Tricia Powell
Miami, FL

Rev Dr Durrell Watkins
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Ms. Ricki Bauman
Congregation Beth Shalom
Sun City Center, FL

Rev Margaret Howland
Orlando, FL

Elizabeth Bisordi
Sarasota, FL

Mr. Robert Hogue
Apollo Beach, FL

Dr. Paula Schoenwether
Bradenton, FL

Linda Brenner
Metropolitan Community Churches
Port Charlotte, FL

Mr. Bill Burckhardt
SunCoast MCC
Venice, FL

Mr. Richard Schaffer, Äôs
St. John the Apostle MCC
Fort Myers, FL

Calla Wells
Trinity CC
Archer, FL

Dr. Rebecca Rock
Zephyrhills, FL

Yoha Perme
Belle Glade, FL

James VanHorn
Joy MCC Orlando, Florida
Orlando, FL

Rev. Catherine Dearlove
Trinity MCC
Newberry, FL

Mrs. Margaret Silver
Atlantic Beach, FL

Tracy Newman
United Methodist
Saint Petersburg, FL

Ms. Renee
College Heights United Methodist Church
Lakeland, FL

Brother Matt Dailey
Good Samaritan United Methodist Church
Tallahassee, FL

Fauniel Clawson
Winter Springs, FL

Celia Cole
Debary, FL

Laurie
Largo, FL

Mr. Timothy Leslie
First United Methodist-Gainesville, FL
Gainesville, FL

Min. Matt Hartley
Interfaith Friendship Project
Jacksonville, FL

Violet Kane
Fort Pierce, FL

Lorenzo Copeland
LIP- Living In Peace
Jacksonville, FL

Erin
Hollywood, FL

Andre Bohrer
Orlando, FL

Dale Shero
Fernandina Beach, FL

Cynthia Casey
Edgewater, FL

Mr. Craig Cox
Christ Lutheran
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Ms. Lucille Ruga
Lakewood U.C.C.
St. Petersburg, FL

Eunice Carasas-McIntosh
Sanford, FL

Jamie
Temple Dor Dorim
Hollywood, FL

Mr. Kevin Brown
Unitarian Universalist
The Villages, FL

Mr. Wayne Morris
St. Mark Lutheran Church Dunedin, FL.
Homosassa Springs, FL

John Magnussen
Palm Bay, FL

Rachel F
Sebring, FL

Laura Harmon
College Park United Methodist Church
Ocoee, FL

Ms. Grace White
Our Lady of Lourdes
Ormond Beach, FL

Barry Steil
Naples, FL

Bara
Jewish
Delray Beach, FL

Minister David
Tampa, FL

Toni Signoretti
United Church of Christ
Daytona Beach, FL

Ms. Elizabeth Bisordi
Suncoast Metropolitan Community Church
Sarasota, FL

Holly Jacoby
Lake Worth, FL

Rev. Rudolph Cleare
Orlando, FL

Mr. Richard Henry
MCC
Sarasota, FL

Gary Thomas
Jacksonville, FL

Dr. Jimmy Ortiz y Luna
Bet Jadash /Guayaquil Ecuador
Miami, FL

Dale McGinnis
Miami, FL

Judith Stein-Farrall
Altamonte Springs, FL

Ms. Genevieve
Fort Myers, FL

Jess Hunt
First Unitarian Church of Orlando
Paisley, FL

Ms. Donell Seager
First United Methodist Church, Pensacola, FL
Pace, FL

Melanie Hamill
Sarasota, FL

Rev. Elizabeth Teal
Orange Park, FL

Roselyn Cruthis
Sun City Center, FL

Rev. Gary LaCroix
Cape Coral, FL

Mrs. Judith Peter
Port Charlotte, FL

Min. James Coffin
Winter Park, FL

Councilmember Diana Kampert
Havana, FL

Ms. Rosemary Colson
Tallahassee, FL

Lizette Acosta
Orlando, FL

sonia jeup
Jacksonville Beach, FL

Dr. Lauren Gray
Saint Petersburg, FL

Rev. Shelly Denmark
Orlando, FL

Deacon Edgardo Farias
Miami, FL

mrs & Black
Beverly Hills, FL

Ms. Charlotte Kendall
Orlando, FL

Rev Sally Brochu
Osprey, FL

Chaplain Ed Wilder, Jr.
Jacksonville, FL

Warren scherb
Ormond Beach, FL

Bridget Thornton
Neptune Beach, FL

Rev. David Holladay
Jacksonville, FL

Mr. Joey McKinnon
Jacksonville, FL

Wendy North
Nokomis, FL

Rev. Kathleen Peters
The Villages, FL

Rev. Gordon Barcalow
Mount Dora, FL

Rita Lucey
Orange City, FL

Shirley
Quincy, FL

Rev. Kimberly Weir
Jacksonville, FL

Rabbi Rabbi Sherwin
Longwood, FL

Kelley Anderson
Saint Petersburg, FL

Lashanna Gilbert
Jacksonville, FL

Quentin
Jacksonville, FL

Akika Gavin
Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Marilyn Glavin
Palmetto, FL

Terrell Jackson
Saint Augustine, FL

Sister London Gore
Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks
Tallahassee, FL

Rev. Dr. Raymond Johnson
Lakeland, FL

Regina Jackson
Jacksonville, FL

Savannah Bowens
Jacksonville, FL

Mr. Michael Anderson
Jacksonville, FL

Rabbi Bryan Mann
Tampa, FL

Deacon Raymond Dever
Tampa, FL

Rev. Brock Leach
Sarasota, FL

Nicole DeVore
Saint Petersburg, FL

Mrs. John Ray
Jacksonville, FL

Pastor Vincent Brown
Jacksonville, FL

Thomas Phillips
Defuniak Springs, FL

Rev. Dr. Richard Branch
Pensacola, FL

Tom & Janet Larson
Jacksonville Beach, FL

Whitney Snider
Jacksonville, FL

Siottis Jackson
Jacksonville, FL

Mary Swanson
Naples, FL

Edward Meiser
Deland, FL

Rabbi Brenner Glickman
Sarasota, FL

Deacon Santana Hinson
Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Dr. Carmelo Mercado
Oviedo, FL

Rev. Jack Ladd
Crawfordville, FL

Mr. Harry Simpkins
Jacksonville, FL

Ellea Gilbert
Jacksonville, FL

Roy Terry
Naples, FL

Mr. Jered Butler
Jacksonville, FL

Rudolph Cleare
Orlando, FL

Stefanie Mackriss
Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Sheldon Steen
Tallahassee, FL

Rev. Richard Dow
Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Meyers
Jacksonville, FL

Mr. Robert Ray
Longwood, FL

Min. Kipp Nelson
Miami, FL

Mr. Zander Keig
Jacksonville, FL

Rabbi David Kay
Orlando, FL

Voluntert Ianelle phillmon
Jacksonville, FL

Janice Mynchenberg
Leesburg, FL

Teddy Laury
Ocala, FL

Reverend Clare Chance
Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Tom Borland
Tallahassee, FL

Kimberly Burgess
Deltona, FL

Sharon Harris-Ewing
Naples, FL

Tracye Polson
Jacksonville, FL

Dennis Pataniczek
Sarasota, FL

Mrs. Lee Brockmann
Sarasota, FL

Beverly Morgan
Jacksonville, FL

Rev. Esther Robles
Brandon, FL

Ms. Emma Amos
Atlantic Beach, FL

Ann Adair
Tampa, FL

J Daniels
Hilliard, FL

Deacon Jennifer Grumbling
St. Mark Lutheran
Palm Harbor, FL

Mr. Nathan Montgomery
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Titusville, FL

Jane Wiley
Tampa, FL

Mr. David Clark
Gainesville, FL