

**Contact Information:**

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Cecilia Filauro

Executive Administrator

[cfilauro@pym.org](mailto:cfilauro@pym.org)

(215) 241-7234



Dear Friends,

At its 2025 annual sessions, held at Cheyney University in July 2025, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM) affirmed its support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQIA+) Friends and friends.

PYM takes this public stand in the face of continued attacks on the LGBTQIA+ members of our communities. Transgender people are having their human rights disrespected, their access to healthcare taken away, and their very identities questioned. Lesbian and gay people fear that their right to marry whom they love will be denied by law. PYM wants the world to know that we love and value all our community members.

The full text of the approved minute follows. It was approved for wide public distribution at Fall Continuing Sessions held at Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia in November 2025.

**Local PYM meetings can take these steps:**

- Share this minute with local news outlets, local government, PRIDE and LGBTQIA+ organizations.
- Add you meeting to [GayChurch.org](http://GayChurch.org), an affirming church directory that helps people locate and visit welcoming, LGBTQ+-inclusive Christian churches around the world.
- Add your meeting to [ChurchClarity.org](http://ChurchClarity.org), a database that scores church websites on how easy it is to find a policies for LGBTQ+ people and women in stewardship.

In peace and friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nikki Mosgrove".

Nikki Mosgrove, Presiding Clerk.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Mohr".

Chris Mohr, General Secretary

## **OFFICIAL MINUTE:**

### **Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minute of Support for the LGBTQIA+ Community**

As Quakers, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting believes that there is that of God, the Light, Spirit, within every person. We receive the gifts of service and care from many of our members who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) and value all as beloved members of our community.

Currently the federal government is targeting LGBTQIA+ people, by writing legislation that denies gender affirming care and treatment, questioning trans and gender diverse individuals' right to exist and be their true selves, pulling funding for mental health hotlines that serve LGBTQIA+ individuals, and threatening to rescind their rights to love and marry who they love. These actions have created dangerous levels of stress in LGBTQIA+ individuals, particularly in the trans community.

The behavior of the current administration goes against all the testimonies Quakers hold dear - especially equality, peace, justice, and integrity. We find this to be intolerable. Several Monthly and Quarterly Meetings across the Yearly Meeting have sent us Minutes of Concern on this topic.

We unite in honoring all people's right to love as they feel led and to inhabit the body that best expresses their true selves. We cherish the diversity that is brought to our community by the participation of these individuals

We stand among and as allies with LGBTQIA+ people and cherish them. Our allyship demands that we continue to educate ourselves on the issues LGBTQIA+ people face, provide a safe space for LGBTQIA+ people and families to worship, and work to end discrimination based on sex, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

Some actions meetings or individuals could take:

- Use the resources on the PYM website to learn about the life experiences of some LGBTQIA+ individuals
- Inform FCNL that LGBTQIA+ rights is one of our legislative priorities
- Advocate for the full protection of civil rights for all
- Encourage individual meetings or Quarters to host LGBTQIA+ speakers to open a dialogue and get to know them

- Open a dialogue with other churches on LGBTQIA+ issues

There will be opportunities for reporting back to PYM and having further discussion.

By embracing members of the LGBTQIA+ community, we are blessed by their strength and endurance which bring rich colors to the tapestry of our Quaker fellowship.