



Dear Mayor Prather and City Council Members,

We the undersigned are Christians who are or have been faith leaders in the Georgetown community. We urge you to pass an LGBT non-discrimination ordinance, not despite our faith, but because of it.

We do not pretend to speak on behalf of all Christian churches or Christian persons, nor do we seek to bind the conscience of anyone on the question of whether homosexual acts are sinful. What we do believe our faith demands is the recognition of the dignity of all human persons and their right to equal protection under civil law. Some of our denominations have issued explicit guidance to this effect:

Catholic: “[Homosexuals] must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1995, §2358)

Episcopal: “This General Convention expresses its conviction that homosexual persons are entitled to equal protection of the laws with all other citizens, and calls upon our society to see that such protection is provided in actuality.” (General Convention, Resolution 1976-A071). The Episcopal Church specifically supports a proposed federal LGBT non-discrimination bill. (Resolution 2009-C048)

Methodist: “Certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation. . . .” (*Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, 2016, §162.J)

With faith, hope and love, we look forward to the day when every citizen of Georgetown will be able to know that he or she is legally protected from discrimination of any kind. To that end, we ask you to pass a Fairness Ordinance updating Georgetown's civil rights law to cover employment, housing, and public accommodations and to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Thank you for considering this important issue, and may God bless each of you and the work that you do for the common good of our community.

Signature

Printed Name

Position

Please return to georgetownfairness@gmail.com