

LGBT+ Inclusion in the Episcopal Church

Session 2 Notes – History of Inclusion in the Episcopal Church

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Background Reading:

- History of LGBTQ+ inclusion in the Episcopal Church
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/who-we-are/lgbtq/history/>
- Episcopal News Service, June 8, 2021 – “For many LGBTQ Episcopalians the struggle for full inclusion is not over”
<https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/2021/06/08/for-many-lgbtq-episcopalians-the-struggle-for-full-inclusion-is-not-over-its-expanded/>

Dates of Interest

- 1944 – Florence Li Tim Oi, is ordained in Hong Kong, the first woman priest in the Anglican Communion
- 1946 – Women sent a message to the General Convention requesting that the term “laymen” be interpreted as inclusive of women, in order that they might participate in the voting bodies of the church. This request as well as similar resolutions were defeated by the all-male General Convention year after year.
- 1964 – The House of Deputies is reprimanded by the Presiding Bishop for yet again voting down the inclusion of women in its body.
- 1967 – The constitutional amendment allowing women to participate as voting members of the house of deputies passes.
- 1969 – women are allowed to be lectors and chalice bearers
- 1970 – women deputies attend convention, marking the first time women are allowed to vote in this legislative body of the Episcopal church
- 1974 – Two retired and one resigned bishop “irregularly” ordain 11 women in Philadelphia.
- 1974 – IntegrityUSA, is founded, an organization with full LGBT+ inclusion in the Episcopal Church as it's goal
- 1976 – Convention narrowly approves changes allowing for women's ordination.
- 1976 – Convention affirms “homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the church.”
- 1988 – Barbara Harris is elected the first woman bishop in the Anglican Communion.
- 1988 – The national Episcopal AIDS foundation created for education and support of ministries through the church
- 1994 – Convention changes the canons to prevent discrimination based on sexuality in the church including membership and ordination.

- 2003 – The diocese of New Hampshire elects the first openly gay bishop, Gene Robinson, whose election is affirmed by vote at the General Convention
- 2006 – Katharine Jefferts Schori becomes the first female Presiding Bishop
- 2009 – Convention affirms the place of same-sex couples in the church, and expresses support for national laws that prevent discrimination.
- 2012 – Convention changes the canons to prevent discrimination for ordination based on gender identity or expression
- 2015 – Convention approves rites for same-sex marriage services
- 2018 – Episcopal churches whose clergy do not want to perform same-sex marriages, must now make provision for another clergy person to perform the service, in the couple's home parish.