



## **LGBT PARENT SUPPORT GROUP TEAM**

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

To provide support and resources to any parent in the New Prague area who has a son or daughter who identifies themselves within the LGBT community.

**COORDINATOR:** Chris Loose

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

#### **Collaboration**

We will partner with the ELCA to provide materials on LGBT issues as well as the ELCA position on LGBT issues. We will be an open group who would gladly collaborate with other churches or groups in the area who have similar goals of support.

#### **Partnering**

We will partner with other groups who have resources that members of our support group might need such as PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbian and Gay individuals) or ELCA Mpls. Area Synod resources. We also hope to partner with our existing ALLY group.

#### **Innovation**

We will be innovative in spirit as we create a new support group. We will try to be innovative in how we work toward getting our message out in a respectful manner.

#### **Transparency**

We will provide complete transparency of our group by inviting ANYONE who would like attend the meetings even if they are not a parent. For example, any HTLC member or council member would be welcome any time. We expect that some may be curious as to what we are discussing and they would be welcome. In additions, notes will be taken of each meeting of topics discussed. Names will not be recorded for the interest of privacy.

#### **Integrity**

We will request at the beginning of each meeting that what is discussed in the meeting is kept private unless the person communicating has noted otherwise. All parents will be treated in a loving, respectful manner and will not have judgment passed on them by members or a leader of the group.

We will open our doors to any parent in the community, regardless of current church or Denominational affiliation. We will listen attentively, try to provide resources and acceptance nor will be a group that tries to convince someone of their personal viewpoint.

#### **Quality**

We will do our best to provide only quality materials, not let the group get swayed by one member, will try to keep to our simple, but important, stated mission.

LGBT Support Group would meet 1x per month. Proposal is for the last Tuesday of each month from 6:30 – 8:00. We would like to meet in Paul's Place or another space in the church.

**FORMAT OF THE GROUP:**

The format of the group will be a parent to parent support group allowing for sharing from each parent. Christine Loose is volunteering to be the moderator to ensure that all have equal time, if wanted and to track topics the group would like to discuss. As the parent of a gay son, she will use her experiences to suggest topics if there are none identified by group. However, she is not the teacher or leader. The group will make decisions about format changes after the group has formed.

Initial invitations to the group will be word of mouth of HTLC members and Christine Loose. After the group has been established for a few months, additional advertising may go out. Any advertising would be drafted and presented to HTLC council liaison contact Tim Miller before going to print.

The ultimate goal of this group would be for parents to gather in a place of ultimate welcome and acceptance and to feel the support of other parents. It is also our hope that those who attend will also feel the love of Jesus Christ through the other parents. Although the group is open to all, we feel the Christian love that is felt through the walls and spaces of HTLC might creep into their lives, if they are not actively praising our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Invite: We will invite all we can find who could benefit from the group.

Equip: We hope to equip our members with the message of acceptance and welcome.

Send: We hope to send our members out into the community with our message of acceptance, welcome and the love of Jesus Christ.

**DATE OF COUNCIL APPROVAL:** October 16, 2012