

PMC Statement of Hurt and Healing

In May of 2022, our denomination, Mennonite Church USA, adopted [“A Resolution for Repentance and Transformation”](#). This resolution recognized the pain we have caused and the harm we have done by excluding LGBTQIA+ people from our churches. The resolution calls us to be truthful about the past and to do the healing work of repentance and transformation.

Following this event, Pastor Rod asked PMC’s Menno Pride committee to take the lead in implementing this action at PMC. In collaboration with various church members and the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBTQ interests, the Menno Pride committee worked at crafting a Statement of Hurt and Healing that expresses our confessions of harm done as well as aspirations to do better.

This year the committee introduced the statement and our work with it to the congregation at a lunch on May 7, 2023. We heard stories from church members who had been hurt by the exclusion of LGBTQIA+ people from Mennonite and other religious spaces. We are grateful for the help of PMC member Nancy Good who facilitated this gathering.

Those who attended the lunch were asked to interact with the statement and reflect on their own experiences. Using these kinds of prompts, they added sticky notes to share their personal thoughts, experiences, and commitments relating to the Statement of Hurt and Healing:

I confess...

I’m curious about...

One strategy I will use...

My hope/dream is...

I lament...

This event serves as an introduction to the idea of repair, and we hope the congregation will continue to think about what it means to not only change, but look back with a desire to repair and transform any harm done. We continue to use this statement at various points in the life of the church. If you have questions, feel free to contact anyone on our committee.

Rainbow Blessings!

Menno Pride Committee

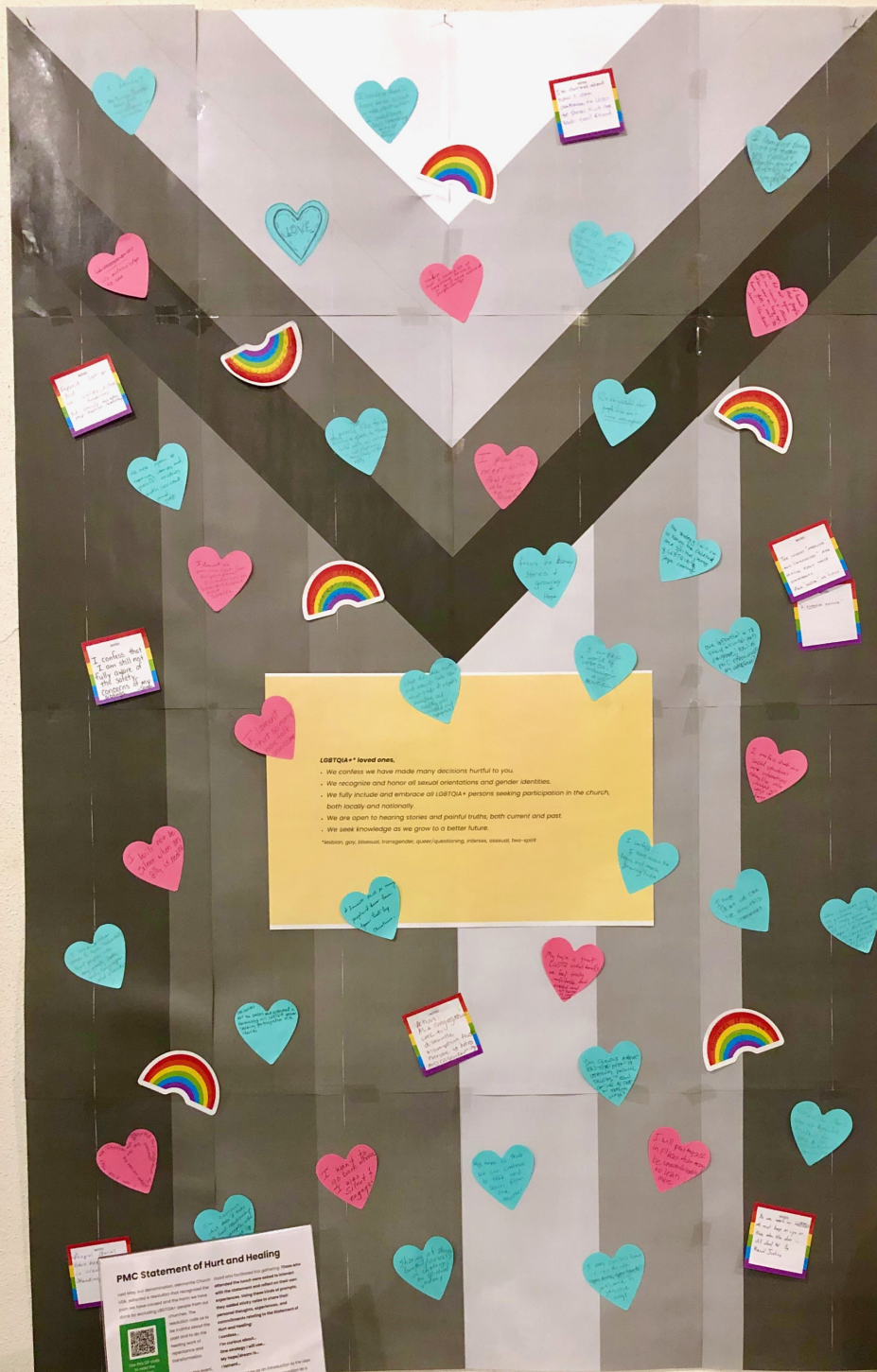
LaVonne Blowers, Lois Gearhart, Hannah Fransen, Vange Gerber, Sylvia Shirk, and Pastor Kristen Swartley

Statement of Hurt and Healing

LGBTQIA+* loved ones,

- We confess we have made many decisions hurtful to you.
- We recognize and honor all sexual orientations and gender identities.
- We fully include and embrace all LGBTQIA+ persons seeking participation in the church, both locally and nationally.
- We are open to hearing stories and painful truths, both current and past.
- We seek knowledge as we grow to a better future.

*lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, two-spirit



LOSTQIA+* loved ones.

- We confess we have made many decisions hurtful to you.
- We recognize and honor all sexual orientations and gender identities.
- We fully include and embrace all LOSTQIA+ persons seeking participation in the church, both locally and nationally.
- We are open to hearing stories and painful truths, both current and past.
- We seek knowledge as we grow to a better future.

*lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, two-spirit

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Read and listen to the testimony of those who have been hurt by the church's stance on LGBTQIA+ issues. This document is a statement of hurt and healing from the Presbyterian Ministry Council (PMC) to the LGBTQIA+ community. It is a statement of the church's stance on LGBTQIA+ issues and a call to action for the church to be more inclusive and welcoming to all people. The document is a statement of the church's stance on LGBTQIA+ issues and a call to action for the church to be more inclusive and welcoming to all people. The document is a statement of the church's stance on LGBTQIA+ issues and a call to action for the church to be more inclusive and welcoming to all people.

