

## Diocese of Atlanta Commission on LGBTQ Ministry - 2016

The Commission on LGBTQ Ministry has had a full and busy year.

A committee of the Commission facilitated the Diocesan presence at the annual Pride Festival in October that took place in Piedmont Park in Atlanta. This event regularly attracts between 200,000 and 300,000 people each year. It is clearly a fertile ground for evangelism by The Episcopal Church via the Diocese of Atlanta. We responded to questions from people who lived throughout the southeast.

Posters bearing the names of those worshiping communities who identify as welcoming and affirming to LGBTQ folks were carried in the Pride Parade again this year. We were delighted to have the Vice President of Integrity USA as our guest as we walked the parade route. The response from the crowds lining the parade route was extraordinarily welcoming and affirming to our presence.

A separate committee of the Commission continues to facilitate communication between the Diocese and its parishes, communication with mainstream media and with LGBTQ-specific media. The goal is to get the word out that The Episcopal Church DOES Welcome You! And to drive that point home, our webpage on the Diocesan Website includes a listing of worshiping communities who have made a statement that they are welcoming and affirming to LGBTQ people. We are now able to list more than 80 worshiping communities in that list.

During the coming year, the Commission will continue to chart a course. Your assistance and participation are welcomed. We would like to exhibit a demographic that is representative of the entire diocese. Questions may be directed to me at [bruce.garner@att.net](mailto:bruce.garner@att.net).

Bruce Garner, Chair, Commission on LGBTQ Ministry, Diocese of Atlanta.