



HARMONY

Many Voices. One Mission.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 5, 2019

GALA, Gay and Lesbian Acceptance announced today the organization's new name, *Harmony*, as well as a new mission statement and logo following an eight-month rebranding process.

In July 2018, the boards of directors of GALA and Welcoming Community Network (WCN) officially approved of a merger, in September 2018 the membership of GALA approved the merger and on February 20, 2019, the merger was fully executed and filed with the State of Missouri. As a result of the merger, we will be better prepared to serve the changing needs of Queer*/LGBTQ+ members and friends of the Community of Christ denomination.

As part of the merger agreement, a rebranding was to occur to ensure a more equitable path forward. Managed by the Rebranding Committee (made up of members, board members, and a third-party branding expert), the rebranding process was guided and informed by intentional membership surveys, discussions, and presentations. The name Harmony was selected, and a new mission was proposed to better meet the needs of a changing denomination, membership, and world. In the spring of 2019, the membership approved of the new name and logo.

Part and parcel to the rebranding effort was taking stock of our past and honoring the achievements from all who have gone before us. While reviewing the former missions of GALA and WCN, it became clear to the Rebranding Committee and Board of Directors that the organization would benefit from a more manageable, measurable, and focused mission. History, values, and feasibility were all considered in this process, resulting in a more concise mission statement that will not only guide the new organization forward but will also serve members and partners for years to come.

About Harmony

Harmony provides advocacy, education, and resources for Queer voices* in Community of Christ with a shared vision of full participation.**

**The term Queer is being reclaimed by some who identify as LGBTQ+ and is used as an umbrella term for the LGBTQ+ community. We use the phrase "Queer voices" to describe all persons, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI), who have the courage to use their voice to speak for justice for the marginalized in the Queer community.*

***Full participation in the life of the church pertains to all members, without exception, ensuring each person is fully eligible to participate in the sacraments, priesthood, all levels of church leadership, as well as any other benefits and responsibilities guaranteed to church membership according to the Membership Manual.*