



## **HARMONY™**

*Many Voices. One Mission.*

The purpose of this document is to provide local and mission center leaders with best practices when planning to participate in Pride festivities. We offer this up as inspirational guidance - not prescriptive rules. We've gathered resources from congregations, individuals, and leaders who have experience planning, promoting, and carrying out Pride booths. Special thanks to all those who submitted photos, talking points, and ideas. Your commitment to sharing God's love with all people is inspiring!

### **Preparing for Pride**

- First, Pride is FUN! The positivity, love, and inclusion is an infectious feeling, and you will leave feeling empowered.
- You will see things that will probably surprise you. It is normal for persons who go to Pride to be newly out and exploring who they are and not following traditional gender roles or images of sexuality. There may be some nakedness, depending on the vibe of Pride in your location—and the bigger the city, the more likely to have nakedness.
- People at Pride events have often been rejected by churches and they can be very defensive about the mere aspect of a church. Trauma-informed ministry can be a helpful training to explore—you may get some pushback and a lot of suspicion for being at an event as a church.
- If you wish to play music at your booth - keep in mind that the playlist should be screened ahead of time to ensure no homophobic/transphobic lyrics are included.
- Four-legged friends also attend Pride! Consider bringing a water bowl and healthy dog treats...maybe even some kerchiefs for dogs to wear that are rainbow themed!
- It can be helpful to prepare and provide a FAQ document on your beliefs/services. This can be used as a giveaway or as talking points for those who staff your booth.



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- Properly vet the individuals who will be staffing your booth. They should be affirming and have guidance on language and culture issues. They should also be fully prepared to experience any level of emotional interaction. (e.g. tears, shouting, anger, resentment, happiness, relief, etc.) That said, we advise you to involve the entire congregation in planning, designing, and preparing your booth. Prepare pins, name tags, etc. for those working at your booth that makes it clear they represent Community of Christ. Consider adding a space for their pronouns to be listed.

## **Designing Your Pride Booth**

- Check for any theme information provided by your local Pride organization. You might want to use this theme in your design somehow.
- Define success. What is the goal of your booth? Your goal could be to ensure all visitors know they are loved, it could be to invite them to an upcoming event, etc.
- We've put together a photo album of Community of Christ Pride booths submitted by Harmony members and friends. [Click here to view it.](#) If you have photos you'd like to submit, please email them to [info@harmony.lgbt](mailto:info@harmony.lgbt), and we will add them to our growing album.
- Prepare a banner made with Community of Christ's logo. You can find all files and download them from [Our Ministry Tools here.](#) (*You will need to set up a FREE account first.*)
- Rainbow imagery is fairly universally accepted as being inclusive of Queer/2SLGBTQIA+ (Queer) persons; however, there are a number of flags to consider. The [progress flag](#) is generally accepted as the best option. Consider ordering banners/flags that can be used at your booth as well as in the Parade if you choose to walk in it.
- Don't be shy - share your contact information!



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- **When it comes to fun giveaways, the gaudier, the better:** feather boas, crazy hair ties, tie-dye, silicone wristband bracelets, stickers, pins, etc. Pronoun pins/stickers are also a great idea. [Visit our website](#) for specific designs, links to order giveaways, etc. We recommend giving out some information about Harmony in order to ensure there is a safe place for them to start if they are nervous.
  - **Note:** Consider adding your congregation's contact information on giveaways as well (street address, URL, meeting times, etc.). For bracelets, see if you can have the contact information on the inside. [See examples here from North Little Rock.](#)
- **When it comes to booth activities, there are lots of ways to be creative:** tattoos, face-painting, tie-dye, photo booths, affirming cards to Queer youth in your area, etc. Keep in mind that Pride events are not just for adults. Families are increasingly present, and as such, planning for kid-friendly activities is important. (e.g. sidewalk chalk, kiddie pools with water, shaving cream art, etc.) You can also purchase or design games like Plink-O, trivia, Pride playlist selector, etc.
- Consider having matching shirts made for all those at your booth for a consistent look. It also makes it easier to find one another in crowds!
- If allowed, bring a large cooler filled with water and paper cups to share with visitors.

### **The Day of the Event**

- Chat with other booths nearby to learn more about ways you might partner in the future. You are surrounded by Queer folks and their allies - use this opportunity to ensure they see Community of Christ as a safe and affirming place.
- Ensure the giveaways you're sharing direct people to content developed for them. (e.g. a specific webpage that answers questions about Queer inclusion in Community of Christ where you live)



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- Schedule your booth staffers to ensure they get frequent breaks. Sometimes this work can be tiring, and you'll be on your feet for extended periods. Bring lawn chairs, fans, water, etc. Be prepared for inclement weather.
- Bring technology along with you and incorporate digital sign-up forms into your booth. (e.g. offer sign-ups for congregational/mission center calendars/emails, Harmony membership sign-up, etc.)
- Remember that this holy work is not easy. Your presence at Pride is a blessing, but it can be triggering to some who have had negative experiences with religion. A reminder that your presence at Pride is not the norm. Most Christian denominations would never be seen there.

Have a great event, and please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions by contacting us at [info@harmony.lgbt](mailto:info@harmony.lgbt).

With gratitude and excitement,

*Your Harmony Board of Directors*