

March 10, 2015

Dear Dunker Punks,

As Brethren lgbtq young people, we have been meeting regularly for nine months to determine how to meet the needs of our community. We are happy to announce the opening of the ROYGBrethren online forum for lgbtq youth and young adults. We hope you will spread the word.

ROYGBrethren is a forum created by and for youth and young adults of diverse sexual and gender identities, including lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer, genderqueer, intersex, asexual, pan, poly, questioning, and more. We understand relationship to the Church of the Brethren is often fluid and changing for queer people, and we hope ROYGBrethren provides space for those connected to the Church of the Brethren whether by history, culture, family, partners, or participation. People of color, diverse abilities and survivors of sexual violence, are more than welcome.

The purpose of the forum is to provide a confidential space for lgbtq youth and young adults to share stories, offer one another support, and discuss collective nonviolent action that builds a more just and affirming community in the Church of the Brethren. ROYGBrethren is a safe space for lgbtq youth, as well as youth who are still discovering their sexuality and gender identity. While denominational discussions determine whether to let us openly sit in pews, speak from pulpits, and co-create resources that serve our community, we will be creating a space where our humanity is fully affirmed now.

Please share this with lgbtq or questioning youth and young adults in your circle who would benefit from being a part of this space. Please direct interested individuals to roygbrethren@gmail.com Thank you!

In peace and love,

Jonathan Bay, Pacific Southwest District
Hannah Button-Harrison, Northern Plains District
Kay Guyer, Middle Pennsylvania District
Josih Hostetler, Pacific Southwest District
Marianne Houff, Shenandoah District
Hannah Monroe, Mid-Atlantic District
Erin West, Shenandoah District