

inside out faith

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your interest in hosting an Inside Out Faith event.

You're probably here because, like me, you recognize the significant impact religion can have on the lives of LGBT people and their allies. I want to be part of making that journey a little less treacherous and I am hoping you will join me.

On one hand, religion has been the single-most recognizable, vocal and organized opponent of anti-gay ideology. Yet on the other, the influence of family, fellowship, cultural identity and personal spiritual growth reveal that faith communities can play a positive role in LGBT self-awareness. With such a disparity between what religion is, or fails to be, it is still often safer to assume that rejection will be the inevitable outcome. Whether commanded or self-imposed, a veil of silence seems the most consistent shield of defense rather than risk public humiliation, loss of family or even employment. It remains that our religious communities are among the most challenging places to find allies, to say nothing of the burden on those who wish to 'come out'.

I believe breaking that silence is imperative to restoring good faith toward LGBT people in our country. By sharing our stories and experiences we can actively disarm the decades of moral dispute over the right to human dignity deserved by people of all sexual orientations. I believe that our faith communities are not obstacles to LGBT social justice, but rather a growing force in reminding us all to love each of our neighbors as ourselves.

Today, I believe my experience, as a gay person of faith is important for two reasons. First, that there are so many others just like me. By sharing our stories we connect with others and we are less alone. Second, that there are many communities of faith stepping up and asking each of us to tell our story. You and your organization are among those who, no doubt, recognize the invaluable necessity of creating safe spaces, providing fellowship and resources to the specific needs of our lesbian, gay, bi and transgendered friends and allies.

This is why I am grateful and honored to be asked to tell *my* story. You are among the many reasons I continue to be amazed at the hope that lies ahead. I am encouraged, that together, we can demonstrate that LGBT equality has a friend in our faith communities.

Regards,



Jennifer Knapp

inside out faith



A conversational event with Jennifer Knapp for communities and organizations

WHO IS JENNIFER KNAPP?

Highly recognized as a premier artist in the Christian Contemporary Music genre, Jennifer Knapp chose to confront long-held speculation with a very public “coming out” in 2010. From interviews with CNN, The Advocate & Christianity Today, to countless Internet blogs and a featured appearance on Larry King Live, the main question on everybody’s lips was “Can you be Gay and Christian?”

Under heavy scrutiny, Jennifer has unashamedly claimed her faith and her sexual orientation with astonishing straightforwardness and honesty. Her candor and compassion have led to overwhelming appeals for her to engage the challenging issue of LGBT inclusion and affirmation in religious communities.

In an effort to continue to create a positive and constructive dialogue on behalf of LGBT people of faith Jennifer is now presenting Inside Out Faith.

Having experienced, first hand, the devastating effects of rejection and judgment, Jennifer knows full well the challenges of being “out” in certain faith communities. However, it is in the sharing of her journey through story, music and conversation that she has discovered the healing that comes from breaking the silence.

WHAT IS AN INSIDE OUT FAITH EVENT?

Jennifer conversationally tells her story, revealing an intimate side that adds newfound depth and meaning to her music and lyrics. It is the story of an honest, vulnerable and questioning soul, living out a journey of life, love and faith.

Jennifer weaves her narrative with her music, and naturally draws participation from the audience, answering questions and sharing candid revelations of her experiences as a gay person of faith.

An Inside Out Faith Event is presented in the following format;

- Introduction by Host
- 60 minute Speaking & Acoustic Singing Performance by Jennifer Knapp
- 30 minute Question & Answer Session with Jennifer Knapp, moderated by Host
- Closing Remarks by Host
- Closing Song Performed by Jennifer Knapp

WHY SHOULD OUR COMMUNITY OR ORGANIZATION HOST AN IOF EVENT?

Inside Out Faith is seeking to connect with other groups and organizations that are interested in fostering positive and affirming dialogue inclusive of LGBT people of faith. Our hosts have included churches, college campuses, divinity schools, corporations and special interest groups.

IOF event hosts are:

- Community leaders active in the advancement of LGBT equality
- Passionate about providing safe environments for people who have experienced rejection from faith communities
- Eager to publicly address and affirm LGBT issues of faith

As an IOF host you will be making a statement in your local community that you are prepared to act, bold enough to speak out, and willing to give time and energy to create environments that are fully inclusive and equal for all sexual orientations and gender identities.

Further technical details regarding the requirements of hosting an IOF event can be found in the attached documentation.

inside out faith

A conversational event with Jennifer Knapp for communities and organizations



booking@insideoutfaith.org | 615.828.5133 | www.insideoutfaith.org | www.facebook.com/insideoutfaith | www.twitter.com/insideoutfaith

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF INSIDE OUT FAITH EVENT HOSTS?

- Every IOF event is a unique and the requirements will differ accordingly. Following is a general guideline to what will be required of the event host.
- The host conducts negotiations, signs the contract and is responsible to secure funding for the IOF event. It is requested that tickets are not sold, nor any kind of offering taken at the event itself as it is important to Jennifer that this dialogue be open and welcoming to those who have experienced rejection and hurt around the issue of inclusion of LGBT people into faith communities. However, fundraising for the event can occur at any other time.
- Hosts are encouraged to view an IOF event as an outreach opportunity to the local community by actively seeking other churches, groups, organizations etc. to be involved as co-hosts or to help with funding and advertising.
- Provide an appropriate venue that is safe and welcoming for all members of the community and meets the venue requirements detailed in the attached documentation.
- Promote the IOF event in the local community, which could include:
 - Arranging interviews or articles in the local media (Jennifer Knapp will be available)
 - Using social media such as Facebook, Twitter, websites, blogs etc.
 - Papering the local area with flyers
 - Contact LGBT organizations in the area to help publicize this IOF event.

TESTIMONIALS FROM PREVIOUS INSIDE OUT FAITH EVENTS

What other hosts are saying...

"...sponsoring an Inside Out Faith Event affords a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the rich diversity of people of faith. Jennifer's willingness to share her personal journey of faith is a natural catalyst inviting and encouraging those around her to share their own stories."

- Rev. Jason Alspaugh. American Baptist Minister

"...if you listen to her closely, the common chords you'll hear are love, acceptance, and grace."

- Rev. Marcy Bain. PCUSA Minister

What attendees are saying...

"It was an excellent evening, one that will be remembered fondly for a very long time. So glad that you have chosen, courageously to offer your music and your story together. The world is changing. It is getting better. And you are helping to make it so."

~ Linda, NJ

"Her music and her message fall like grace notes on the ears of a world in need."

~ John, OH

"Through story, laughter and music Jennifer created a space in which, despite probable discord among some in attendance, there existed a resonant sense of love and appreciation."

~ Bonnie, PA



Jennifer speaking at an IOF event in Kansas City