

# St. Peter's is a **Believe Out Loud** Congregation

St. Peter's welcomes you into our community, regardless of your sexual orientation or gender identity. We are a "Believe Out Loud" congregation, which means that we have gone through a six-step process (see below) to help us become more conscious and welcoming to all who come through our doors, and to proclaim our welcome to the wider community.

Click <https://www.believeoutloud.com/> to find out more about the **Believe Out Loud** organization.

## **Steps to Becoming a Believe Out Loud Congregation**

Step One: Assess—Are you already a welcoming congregation? If so, the other steps will be easy.

Step Two: Engage—If the congregation is not 100% on board, it will take some discussion and discernment to make this decision.

Step Three: Adopt—Write a comprehensive welcoming statement for the congregation that specifically mentions the LGBT community. You may include any additional groups focused on by your parish.

Step Four: Register—Send the welcome statement, with your parish information, to Integrity Believe Out Loud. This will put your congregation on the map.

Step Five: Publish—The welcoming statement should be published throughout the church, i.e. printed each week in the service leaflet, published in the newsletter, displayed in a frame at the entrances to the church facility.

Step Six: Continue—Continue to educate, to be educated, and to find new ways for the parish to be even more welcoming.