

LITANY



A Litany of Hope and Struggle: Honoring the Shower of Stoles Project

By Carol Wise

Executive Director, Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests

One: Because injustice can break the most eager spirit and force the abandonment of dreams...

All: We hold tenderly our sisters and brothers and grieve the loss of vibrancy and faith.

One: Because fear can overwhelm goodness and silence those whom God has called...

All: We decry the betrayal of God's own and announce our resolve to speak the truth of our lives.

One: Because hate destroys the human heart and limits the wonders of love...

All: We open ourselves to compassion and offer our lives as witnesses to the healing presence of God.

One: Because complacency gives consent to systems that oppress and harm...

All: We refuse to cede our world to hurtful powers and principalities and dare to dream new creations into being.

One: Because courage in the face of fear and injustice is a holy deed...

All: We celebrate the passion that chooses life in the midst of violence and claims the goodness of human dignity with power and grace.

One: Because hope in a world of complacency and hate is a sacred act of resistance...

All: We stand among this incredible cloud of witnesses and today proclaim:

Where hatred roars, we will sing of love.

Where fear stalks, we will stand with courage.

Where bigotry rages, we will call for justice.

Where pain overwhelms, we will extend kind comfort.

Where systems oppress, we will work for change.

Now and ever, now and ever, now and evermore.

Amen.