



Religious + LGBTQ Life at Carolina

Photographer Ollie Wilson

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When looking for a religious student group at UNC, many students feel overwhelmed by the number of choices available to them. However, for many LGBTQ-identified students it may feel as if they have no choices at all. Many avoid religious gatherings altogether, so as to not risk joining a group that will eventually reject them. While some students do not feel this to be a loss, others feel that having a religious community is too integral to live without. Some campus groups accept their LGBTQ members, but others aren't as clear or consistent with their views.

Seekers of an LGBTQ-affirming group in the Jewish community can find one in UNC Hillel. Hillel takes an LGBTQ-affirming position at UNC and also on campuses nationwide. Their organization holds this official stance and has shown its support for Keshet, an organization dedicated to creating a fully inclusive Jewish community for those who are LGBTQ-identified. In the wake of the recent suicides, Hillel responded by publicizing LGBTQ networks and ally information. They also released a statement saying that Hillel “affirms the dignity of every human being, that we are all made in the image of G-d, regardless of sexual orientation, whether Jewish or non-Jewish.”

While the Buddhist Student Association does not have an official position on homosexuality, they emphasize Buddhism's support for “all kinds of love” and confirm their openness to LGBTQ members.