

## USGA Mission Statement (2016-2017)

Understanding Same-Gender Attraction (USGA) is an unofficial group of Brigham Young University students, faculty and guests who wish to strengthen families and the BYU community by providing a place for open, respectful discussions on the topic of same-gender attraction and LGBTQ issues.

Empathy and community are the goals of USGA. Hurt, fear, anger, and shame are real and familiar emotions in our community. This is, however, not an appropriate forum for angry, vulgar, or profane remarks, nor for expressions of antagonism against any person or organization. In order to build a community of respect and understanding, we ask all participants to be mindful of USGA's political neutrality and to be respectful of BYU, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and the beliefs and experiences of others. Above all, we support BYU students and guests in upholding the Honor Code – queer or straight, do not use USGA as a place to hit on, ask out, or hook up. USGA is a neutral space – don't assume, or ask, someone's sexual orientation or gender. Likewise, don't assume to know someone's behavioral choices or activity in the Church based off of their orientation or gender. Our motto: Don't ask, do tell! (If you want).

While USGA is a supportive community, we are not a support group nor are we run by professional therapists. If you think you might be experiencing depression, anxiety, suicide ideation, or any other mental health issues we highly encourage you to check out the BYU Counseling center which is bound by law to be confidential. Other resources are listed on our [Facebook page](#) and website.

If you have come to understand, to be understood, to find empathy and compassion, and to build community, you've found the right place. USGA welcomes you.