A National Convocation of the Love Your Neighbor Coalition

For Everyone Born

July 26–29, 2018  St. Louis, MO
Affirmation salutes the Love Your Neighbor Coalition for their dedication to full equality in The United Methodist Church

For a half a century, Affirmation has built a movement through relationship building and creative partnerships. RMN was first a program of Affirmation. Now both Affirmation and RMN are building partnerships in Africa with LGBTQ people and supportive UMC church leaders. Whatever happens at GC 2019, Affirmation will continue to work for full inclusion and justice.

Support us if don’t already!
Become a member or renew your membership,
Volunteer to serve on the National Council,
Support our creative work!

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Welcome beloved children of our amazing God! Thank you for spending the next few days in St. Louis joining with others from across The United Methodist connection who are working for full inclusion in the United Methodist Church. Our work, as a reconciling people, is relational, and there is no better place to get to know others who share the vision of a UMC that welcomes and values all of those (laity and ordained) whom God created, gifted, and called to ministry and service in our beloved church and beyond.

For Everyone Born. Let those words sink in a little. No one is excluded. No one is less than. No one is incompatible with Christian teaching. We are all beloved children.

We have a weekend planned that allows time for us to sing, worship, and to be in fellowship with each other, learn from one another, and to form our vision of the church that looks like what we mean when we talk about modeling the church for the world. In the midst of that, we will spend some time in conversation about the called General Conference being held in downtown St. Louis, February 23-26, 2019. We will hear from commission members, get an overview of the legislation that is before the delegates, and listen to each other as we work on our collective plans for the called General Conference.

We are all here with love for the church and love for one another, beloved Community at its finest. We have this moment to gather together and to deepen our relationships and growth within this movement for change. When we leave here, we want to leave with a greater understanding of the various perspectives and wisdom present in our collective and intersectional movement, have an action plan reflecting what churches and individuals can act on right now, and be prepared to work with others in the church to amend the petitions before the General Conference, so that the language that harms us is removed.

And as we focus on removing language from the church that harms us, it is crucial that we create and model Beloved Community together, treating one another with grace and love. We may differ on strategy, but we do not differ on the essentials: A church that will have its doors open wide enough for all of us to enter.

Planning for For Everyone Born has brought us together as representatives of LGBTQ justice organizations, the LYNC Leadership team, and others in the wider movement together. Our goal was to model the church even in this work. We have renewed old friendships, built new friendships, and come to love and appreciate each of the organizations that are a part of LYNC. We each play a unique role that is consistent with our organizational missions. But, we have one objective in 2019, seeing the harmful language removed from the Book of Discipline so that we can join as equal members with others in casting the vision of The United Methodist Church of the future.

Thank you for being here! We hope you have an awesome experience. And, we hope that you will join us in February at General Conference prepared to: greet the delegates with extravagant hospitality, pray for those present and those at home, and be an ever present witness to the lives and ministries of LGBTQ people who are at the heart of The United Methodist Church.

Blessings to you all,

The For Everyone Born Core Planning Team
WE’RE GLAD YOU’RE HERE!

The For Everyone Born Core Planning Team

Rev. Bea Soots
Affirmation

Kevin Nelson
Co-Convener, Love Your Neighbor Coalition (LYNC) Strategy Team

Rev. Martha E. Vink
Methodists in New Direction (MIND)

Jan Lawrence
Executive Director, Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN)

Rev. Vicki Woods
United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus (UMQCC)

Ben Roe
Western Methodist Justice Movement (WMJM)
For Everyone Born

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Jesus’ response to the question “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” was - to “love God with all our heart, soul [being] and mind” and to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:36-40). These hold ancient “law and prophets” together with our contemporary Book of Discipline, Social Principles, and Book of Resolutions. Our mission is to assure The United Methodist Church is fully open to the presence, love, and grace of God offered to all people.

- Affirmation United Methodist LGBTQ People and our Allies
- Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR)
- Fossil Free UMC
- MARCHA: Metodistas Asociados Representando la Causa Hispano-Americanos
- Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA)
- Methodists in New Directions (MIND)
- Native American International Caucus (NAIC)
- Pacific Islanders National Caucus of United Methodists (PINCUM)
- Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN)
- United Methodist Association of Ministers with Disabilities
- United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus (UMQCC)
- Western Methodist Justice Movement (WMJM)

**OUR GUIDING CONCEPT:** Ubuntu: I am who I am because we are together.

**OUR VALUES:** Grace, dignity, relationship, justice, and solidarity with the marginalized and oppressed.

**OUR GOAL:** We hope to ensure that our United Methodist Church remains open to the presence, love, and grace of God, and is faithful to our Wesleyan heritage of embracing both personal and social holiness as equal partners in our life-long journey of mission and ministry in Jesus’ name.

**OUR 2019 GOALS:**
1. Removal of discriminatory language from the Book of Discipline.
2. A healthy United Methodist connection.
3. A healthy global connection.

**OUR CHALLENGE FOR THE UMC:**
1. We call upon the Commission on a Way Forward and the Council of Bishops to develop a plan that maintains the UM connection and removes all forms of language that discriminates against LGBTQ persons from the Book of Discipline.
2. We call upon the delegates to the 2019 special session of General Conference to act to maintain the UM connection and remove all forms of language that discriminates against LGBTQ persons from the Book of Discipline.
3. We call upon all United Methodists to join together in love, grace and compassion; to recognize “us” reflected in each other; and to work to strengthen our relationships and our United Methodist connection; and restore our ubuntu, regardless of where we stand on the theological or political spectrums.

Finally, as we look toward the 2019 General Conference, we call upon all United Methodists to careful examination of other ways in which we harm our ubuntu, other ways in which we perpetuate new and historic injustices against one another such as racism, sexism, ableism, classicism, misogyny, and colonialism, and to join together to work toward our continuing restoration and sanctification in those regards as well.

LYNC Partners on the For Everyone Born Planning Team include:
Affirmation United Methodist LGBTQ People and our Allies
Methodists in New Directions (MIND)
Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN)
United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus (UMQCC)
Western Methodist Justice Movement (WMJM)
For Everyone Born Office is the St. Peters Room on the 1st floor of the hotel. The office will be staffed from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. to answer your questions and concerns about For Everyone Born.

Worship and Plenary Sessions will be held in the Grand Ballroom at the hotel. Workshops will be held in various meeting rooms of the hotel.

Registration Check-In — where you get your name badge, program book and finalize payments—will be in the hotel lobby on Wednesday from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. and on Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Persons arriving after Thursday can register in the For Everyone Born office in the St. Peters Room.

Hospitality Table will be in the Grand Foyer and staffed by St. Louis area volunteers on Friday and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. They can assist you with information about St. Louis resources and with securing personal items or supplies you may need.

Accessibility — For Everyone Born is a welcome place for the whole people of God, including people of all physical abilities and conditions. The Hilton Hotel facilities are fully compliant with any accessibility needs. Next to every set of steps on the first floor, there is a ramp as well. If any Guest needs additional assistance, contact the front desk. Contact the For Everyone Born office with accessibility concerns.

Choir — singers are invited to be part of the For Everyone Born choir under the direction of Grace Cox-Johnson that will perform and lead singing in some worship services. Rehearsals will be on Thursday from 6:30-7:00 p.m.; Friday from 6:00-6:30 p.m.; and Saturday from 5:00-5:30 p.m. in the Grand Ballroom.

Fitness Center on the first floor of the hotel is open 24 hours daily. The Pool is open from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Gift Shop by the hotel front desk is open 24 hours a day and offers cereal cups, candy, assorted chips and frozen entrees, plus sandwiches and salads. There are various beverages from soda, water, iced coffee drinks, etc. Purchase items with the front desk agent.

Lost and Found items are handled in the For Everyone Born office (St. Peters Room). Try to remember to take your personal belongs with you when you leave a meeting space.

Meals provided with your registration if you included the breakfast option are Friday breakfast through Sunday breakfast. If you did not pay for the breakfast option you will get lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday. Breakfast is provided in the Gateway Ballroom. Lunches and dinners are in two rooms: Gateway Ballroom and Salons A/B (you can choose either if space available). The Saturday night banquet will be in the Grand Ballroom.
Medical Care — basic first aid supplies are available in the For Everyone Born office. The nearest Hospital and Emergency Room is SSM Health DePaul Hospital, 12303 DePaul Drive, Brideton, MO 63044.

Name Badge is available and registration and provides entry to all For Everyone Born Born program activities and meals. **PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME BADGE AT ALL TIMES.**

Newsletter — a daily newsletter, *The Table Runner*, is available each day at breakfast or morning worship or in digital form via email. It will highlight the day’s schedule, program changes and announcements. The deadline for submitting announcements or news for the next day’s newsletter is 6:00 p.m. Submit any announcements or photos to the For Everyone Born office in the St. Peters Room or to newsletter@foreveryoneborn.org.

Orientation Sessions will be on Thursday at 3:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. in the St. Charles Room on the first floor of the hotel. Come with your questions and get an overview of the For Everyone Born activities as well as the hotel facilities with event planner Mark Bowman.

Parking is available in the hotel lot for hotel guests at a special rate of $3 per day. The usual rate is $13 a day.

Resource Center is in the Grand Foyer outside the Grand Ballroom. There you will be able to pick up information about a variety of organizations and Love Your Neighbor Coalition partners plus purchase For Everyone Born resources and memorabilia.

Social Media — join us in sharing about For Everyone Born through livetweeting, posting photos and sharing your experience on social media so those who could not make it can experience this event from afar. The official hashtag for all social media platforms (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter) is #ForEveryoneBorn.

Videorecording for all worship services, Bible studies and plenary sessions will be streamed live and archived for later viewing at [https://www.youtube.com/user/rmnvideo](https://www.youtube.com/user/rmnvideo).

Wireless Internet Access is available on a complimentary basis in your hotel room as well as the lobby and Grand Ballroom as well as workshop rooms.

Complimentary Airport Shuttle leaves from the hotel every 15 minutes 24 hours a day.

The World’s Away Restaurant in the hotel is open from 6:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily.

The Constellations Lounge is open from 4:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. daily.
SCHEDULE (Wednesday–Friday)

~ Wednesday, July 25, 2018
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. United Methodists Queer Clergy Caucus (UMQCC) .........................Illinois Room
5:00-9:00 p.m. For Everyone Born Registration open .........................................................Hotel lobby

~ Thursday, July 26, 2018
9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. For Everyone Born Registration open .........................................................Hotel lobby
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Parent’s Reconciling Group Workshop (PRN) ................................Lindbergh Room
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. United Methodists for Transgender Inclusion (UMATI) .......................Illinois Room
2:00-4:00 p.m. LYNC Strategy Meeting .....................................................................................Missouri
3:00/4:00/5:00 p.m. Orientation sessions for For Everyone Born participants ...........St. Charles Room

For Everyone Born officially begins!
7:15 p.m. Gathering singing ..........................................................................................Grand Ballroom
7:30 p.m. Opening Worship (page 47) ...........................................................................Grand Ballroom
       Rev. Sean Delmore preaching
8:15 p.m. Welcome & Introductions ..............................................................................Grand Ballroom
8:45 p.m. Bible Study (page 21) ...................................................................................Grand Ballroom
       with Rev. Tonya Parker & Rev. Dr. Tyler Schwaller
9:15 p.m. Sweets for the Sweet Reception .............................................................................Grand Foyer
       hosted by Affirmation

~ Friday, July 27, 2018
7:00-8:30 a.m. Breakfast ...........................................................................................................Gateway Ballroom
8:15 a.m. Gathering Singing ..............................................................................................Grand Ballroom
8:30 a.m. Worship (page 48) ..............................................................................................Grand Ballroom
       Rev. David Meredith preaching
9:15 a.m. Bible Study (page 21) ..........................................................................................Grand Ballroom
       with Rev. Tonya Parker & Rev. Dr. Tyler Schwaller
9:45 a.m. Break
10:00 a.m. Introduction to General Conference 2019 (page 12) .................................Grand Ballroom
11:00 a.m. Break
11:15 a.m. Conversations on General Conference 2019 (page 13) ............................Grand Ballroom
       General Conference delegates meet ........................................................................Soulard
12:15 p.m. Lunch .................................................................................................................Gateway Ballroom or Salons A/B
2:00-3:30 p.m. Workshops Session 1 (pages 26)
3:45-5:15 p.m. Workshops Session 2 (pages 26)
SCHEDULE (Friday–Sunday)

5:30 p.m. Dinner ................................................................. Gateway Ballroom or Salons A/B
7:15 p.m. Gathering Singing .................................................. Grand Ballroom
7:30 p.m. “Ain’t I a Christian, Too?” ........................................ Grand Ballroom
   Rev. Dr. Jay Williams (page 14)

~ Saturday July 28, 2018

7:00-8:30 a.m. Breakfast .......................................................... Gateway Ballroom
8:15 a.m. Gathering Singing .................................................. Grand Ballroom
8:30 a.m. Worship [page 49] .................................................. Grand Ballroom
   Rev. Starsky Wilson preaching
9:15 a.m. Bible Study [page 21] .................................................. Grand Ballroom
   with Rev. Tonya Parker & Rev. Dr. Tyler Schwaller
9:45 a.m. Break
10:00 a.m. Jurisdictional Meetings [page 15] .......................... see page 15
11:00 a.m. Break
11:15 a.m. “Disruptive Christian Ethics of Embodiment” .............. Grand Ballroom
   with Rev. Dr. Traci C. West (page 15)
12:15 p.m. Lunch ............................................................... Gateway Ballroom or Salons A/B
2:00 p.m. Conversations with Bishop Karen Oliveto [page 16] ..... Grand Ballroom
3:15 p.m. Break
3:30-5:00 p.m. Workshops Session 3 (pages 27)
   General Conference delegates meet .................................. St. Peters Room
6:30 p.m. Gathering for Banquet [page 17] ................................. Grand Ballroom
8:00 p.m. Celebrating our History [page 17] ............................... Grand Ballroom

~ Sunday, July 29, 2018

7:00-8:30 a.m. Breakfast .......................................................... Gateway Ballroom
8:45 a.m. Gathering Singing .................................................. Grand Ballroom
9:00 a.m. Come to St. Louis in February 2019 [page 20] .......... Grand Ballroom
10:15 a.m. Bible Study [page 21] .................................................. Grand Ballroom
   with Rev. Tonya Parker & Rev. Dr. Tyler Schwaller
10:45 a.m. Closing Worship [page 50] ........................................ Grand Ballroom
   T.C. Morrow preaching

For Everyone Born adjourns
1:00 p.m. LYNC Leadership Team meeting ......................... St. Charles Room
**PRE-CONFERENCE GATHERINGS**

**Wednesday, July 25** 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ........................................................................................................ Illinois Room

**United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus (UMQCC)** Come to St. Louis a day early so we can enjoy time with one another. Many of us have wanted to gather for an occasion other than protesting an injustice in our denomination. Maybe we’ll have a caucus retreat in a year or so, but for now many of us will already be at Convocation. Let’s gather on 7/25 and share some sacred time together. There will probably be some strategy discussion and check ins with caucus leaders, but our agenda for the day is simply time together. For more info about UMQC, please contact Austen Adkinson: rev.adkinson@gmail.com

**Thursday, July 26** 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ...................................................................................... Lindbergh Room

**Parents Reconciling Network (PRN)** invites parents, family members and allies to join in a day together before *For Everyone Born*. This day will include time for sharing stories and learning more about PRN. The Rev. Melissa Spence, Pastor for Missional Engagement, First UMC, San Diego, CA, will present “My Mind Was Changed – A New Way to Talk With Conflicted Christians about LGBT People in Church and Society.” An afternoon panel discussion will include Revs. Jim and Bonnie Parr Philipson sharing their family story and their transgender daughter. Jim and Bonnie are retired clergy in the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference. Also Lorena Cory will speak about the Pinwheels program in the Chicago metro area. The Pinwheels program consists of play group for gender expansive children and a support group for their parents. Lorena founded this program as she helped her young daughter’s transition. For more information about PRN, email: jwaugh3@mac.com

**Thursday, July 26** 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. ............................................................................ Illinois Room

**United Methodist Alliance for Transgender Inclusion (UMATI)** is holding a “day apart” so that those who are transgender, non-binary, genderqueer, gender-nonconforming, and their loved ones can come together for spiritual and emotional growth and support. Austen Hartke is leading us through the day-retreat focusing on the theme: A Place at the Table. The retreat will include time for rest and renewal through spiritual practices like Bible study and centering prayer, as well as education time as we build each other up through resilience training. Come practice standing firm in your truth and finding your space in the community.

UMATI is also providing a hospitality room, a safe spot for transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming folx, in Suite 412/414 throughout the convocation. UMATI will also have a spiritual care team on-call, led by Dawnne Woodie. For more information about UMATI, please contact Rev. Terri Stewart at revterrijane@outlook.com or at 425-531-1756.
Our *For Everyone Born* Gathering Facilitators will be Helen Ryde and Jarell Wilson. They will be at the microphone before and after worship and plenary sessions to invite and encourage everyone’s participation in our convocation experience together!

**Helen Ryde** serves as RMN’s full-time Southeastern Regional Organizer, prior to this she was the Northeast Regional Organizer, joining RMN in 2012. Helen fell in love with the United States in 1983 when she visited New Jersey and Virginia for a field hockey tour with her high school. She spent 15 happy years in non-denominational charismatic churches in the UK (mostly London and Canterbury), but eventually the whole being gay thing was too tricky to navigate. Eventually Helen moved to Massachusetts in 1998, met Mrs. Lovely (her spouse Kate) in 1999, and found the United Methodist Church in Provincetown in about 2005. Along the way Helen has been a Vice President of a global financial services company and a special needs teacher. She graduated in post-graduate secondary education from Canterbury Christ Church University. Helen was consecrated as a Home Missioner at General Conference 2016.

**Jarell Wilson** is a graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, a Twitter addict, a blogger, and a self-proclaimed Methodork. He attended Baylor University and graduated from the University of North Texas with a degree in Sociology. He’s a proud Austinite; an activist in Chacos; a Slytherin; a scented candle aficionado; enneagram 4 with a 5 wing; and an obsessed parent of the most wonderful dog in all of God’s creation, Mia. While Jarell isn’t working or writing, he can be found prowling whatever city he is in for the best places to eat, reading, watching *The Crown*, and singing rather loudly. He serves on the board of Reconciling Ministries Network, and is currently a certified candidate for ordained ministry in the Rio Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church on the elder track.
PLENARY SESSIONS: Friday Morning 10:00 a.m.

Introduction to General Conference 2019

Join us for a plenary discussion facilitated by Randall Miller where we will hear from Commission on a Way Forward (CoWF) members about their experiences on the commission, relationships they built with others on the commission, and the report coming to the church from the Commission (expected release date is July 30, 2018).

**Dr. Randall Miller** (facilitator) is a layperson from the California-Nevada Annual Conference and the Principal of Oaktown Consulting. A long-time activist for full inclusion, Randall has served as a national spokesperson for Affirmation and on the RMN. He has also served as the Chair of the Commission on the General Conference, First Lay Alternate to the UM Judicial Council, and Vice-President of the General Board of Church and Society.

**Rev. Brian Adkins** is an elder in the California-Nevada Annual Conference. He has served Open Door UMC in Richmond, CA, since 2014. He holds a Master’s in Divinity from Pacific School of Religion. Brian is a former board member of the Reconciling Ministries Network. He is currently a leader in the Queer Clergy Caucus and is serving as a member of the Commission on a Way Forward.

Brian grew up in rural Ohio, where his Pentecostal grandmother had a great impact on his faith and formation. Prior to becoming a pastor, he worked in nonprofit development, as a fundraiser and program manager, and was trained as a faith-based community organizer.

**Matt Berryman** spent over four years as executive director of Reconciling Ministries Network during an exciting and fruitful season where significant gains were made toward the advancement of a fully inclusive church for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. He now serves as a member of The Commission on a Way Forward whose task is the creation of a proposal that allows for greater inclusion of LGBT persons in the denomination. Prior to joining the staff of RMN, Matt spent three years in law school at the Florida Coastal School during which time he worked for churches, law firms, and LexisNexis as a legal editor. From 2002-2009, Matt served United Methodist congregations in the Florida Conference. He has also served churches in the United Kingdom,
Scott Johnson has served the United Methodist Church in numerous roles. He was elected Lay Leader of the former Western New York Annual Conference in 2004 and 2008. He elected the first conference lay leader of the Upper New York Annual Conference in 2010 and served until 2016. He was elected President of the Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders by his peers across the connection in 2008 and served two terms. He has also been elected as a delegate to General Conference in 2012 and 2016. He currently serves as pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Buffalo.

Dave Nuckols is a lifelong Methodist who led his local church to become a Reconciling Congregation in 2010 and Altar for All church in 2013. He serves the church as Conference Lay Leader in Minnesota, Treasurer of the Connectional Table and Member of Commission on a Way Forward. He is active on the boards of the Reconciling Ministries Network and the Parents’ Reconciling Network.

Conversations on General Conference

Being in relationship with each other and others in the church is key to our presence and witness at General Conference in 2019. Join the breakout discussion group of your choice for more specific conversation about the upcoming General Conference and LYNC plans for presence and witness. Topics include: Hospitality in St. Louis, Having Conversations in Local Churches, Risks with the Connectional Conference Plan, Risks with the Contextualization in the One Church Plan, Learning More about Uniting Methodists, Learning More about the Wesleyan Covenant Association, and What Local Churches and Reconciling Methodists Can Be Doing Now. The list of conversation topics, facilitators, and room assignments will be given at the session.
Rev. Gerald “Jay” Williams, Ph.D. became the lead pastor of Union United Methodist Church (Boston) on July 1st, having guided this congregation September 2012 - June 2017. An ordained Elder in The United Methodist Church, Jay has served congregations in New York City, Boston, and San Francisco, including Glide Memorial.

Williams holds a Master of Divinity with highest honors from Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York (2009) and the Bachelor of Arts magna cum laude from Harvard College (2003). In May 2017, Jay received the Ph.D. in the Study of Religion from the Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Williams’s work explores the meaning of “Spirit” in black cultural discourse at the intersection of race, class, gender, and sexuality: particularly how spirit-talk has been a marginalizing language of power. Through his pastoral and academic work, Jay strives to help more disinherited folk find their voices.

Rev. Jay, a queer cisgender man, and his partner, Robert, have two crazy yorkie-chihuahuas, Bentley and Hurston. Hailing from Buffalo, New York, Jay despises the snow and dreams of life in Wakanda. To wit, he is pretty much obsessed with Black Panther—as well as the 1980s cartoon series “The Thundercats.”

Jim Dietrich Graphics from Madison, WI will have T-shirts, buttons and other items with the For Everyone Born logos on them available to purchase in the Resource area in the Grand Foyer outside the Grand Ballroom from noon Thursday thru closing on Sunday at noon. Check the ad in the program book for Approximate times.
Disruptive Christian Ethics of Embodiment

We gather here because we are the body of Christ. Our Christian ethical task, therefore, must be to disrupt prevailing lies that seek to diminish the sacred worth of our embodied selves and to hinder our witness to the mission and ministry of Jesus. In the face of ongoing assaults that threaten thriving queer embodiedness in our communities, what disruptive Christian ethical guidelines do we need? How can we incorporate an anti-racist vision in our affirmation of Christian embodiedness?

Rev. Dr. Traci C. West

Conversations with Bishop Karen Oliveto

Bishop Karen Oliveto has modeled what it means to be the church for the world in her two years as the first openly gay bishop of The United Methodist Church. She will share with us about her first year as bishop, including tales of the travels she and Robin have made through the Mountain Sky Area. As time permits, she will answer some questions from those present about that experience.

Rev. Dr. Karen P. Oliveto was consecrated as a bishop of The United Methodist Church on July 16, 2016 in Scottsdale, Arizona and assigned for the 2016-2020 quadrennium to the Mountain Sky Episcopal Area, which includes the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone annual (regional) conferences. It includes 400 congregations in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, and a small section of Idaho.

Bishop Oliveto was elected to the episcopacy after serving as the first woman pastor of the 12,000-member Glide Memorial United Methodist Church in San Francisco, CA. She is the first woman to serve as senior pastor of one of The United Methodist Church’s 100 largest congregations. She served Glide from 2008 until her election as bishop.

Bishop Oliveto earned her B.A. in Psychology, cum laude, from Drew University, Madison, NJ, in 1980. She earned her Master in Divinity from Pacific School of Religion, Berkley, CA, in 1983, a Master in Philosophy from Drew University in 1991, and a PhD in the Sociology of Religion from Drew University in 2002. She was ordained as an Elder in the New York Conference of The United Methodist Church in 1985. She transferred her clergy membership to the California-Nevada Annual Conference in July 1997.

Saturday Evening Banquet Dancing!

DJ Dan Kraus of The Sound Doctors has been around since the late 80’s, playing weddings, parties, music trivias all over the St. Louis area. A great mix of music awaits you and your dancing shoes!
SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET

6:30 p.m.

We will gather at 6:30 PM for a festive time of food, fellowship, and FUNdraising! Our program for the evening will be a celebration of the history of our movement for LGBTQ inclusion. Voices from throughout the decades of our work will share stories so that we can honor together our achievements and hold in holy memory our losses. We will close out the evening with a cash bar, music, and dancing. Bring your dancing shoes and your checkbook and join us for what should be a very memorable evening!

Mark Bowman (host) began his involvement with LGBTQ organizing in the United Methodist Church leading up to the 1980 General Conference. After graduating from Boston University School of Theology in 1982, he was dismissed as clergy from the East Ohio Conference because of being gay. He was part of the Affirmation team that launched the Reconciling Congregation Program (now RMN) in 1983-84 and eventually served as the executive director until 1999. He lives in Chicago where he works in meeting planning and communications with a number of LGBTQ and church groups and serves as a part-time church musician.

Judy Cayot is a layperson and life-long member of Epworth United Methodist Church in Berkeley, CA. Judy joined Affirmation in 1983 where she served on the staff of The Upper Room as an editor, writer, and worship leader. She is the author of several books, including Christ Beside Me, Christ Within Me: Celtic Blessings. Beth is an ordained Deacon and a member of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference. She lives with her family in Nashville. She is still associated with Edgehill UMC, the community that modeled the discernment process that Reconciling Communities still follow today.

Beth Richardson became a member of Affirmation in 1979. She was a part of the shaping and launching of the Reconciling Congregation Program in 1984. She served with Mark Bowman first as a volunteer and then a paid co-coordinator for the program during its first several years. She was a part of shaping the process that communities still follow to declare themselves reconciling. Beth serves on the staff of The Upper Room as an editor, writer, and worship leader. She is the author of several books, including Christ Beside Me, Christ Within Me: Celtic Blessings. Beth is an ordained Deacon and a member of the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference. She lives with her family in Nashville. She is still associated with Edgehill UMC, the community that modeled the discernment process that Reconciling Communities still follow today.

Mark Bowman first as a volunteer and then a paid co-coordinator for the program during its
Ben Roe is a “preacher’s kid,” a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University and Claremont School of Theology, a former UM minister in Nebraska, sexuality educator, pastoral counselor, and activist. He has been a tech support leader and trainer, a Conference communications staffer at the Rocky Mountain Conference, and an editor for the Love Your Neighbor Coalition General Conference publication in 2012 and 2016. He has been an activist for inclusion of LGBTQ persons in the United Methodist Church for years, attending his first Affirmation meeting in 1978 in Dayton, while exploring his newly-acknowledged “bisexual” orientation. Since gender is non-binary, he now celebrates attractions to persons regardless of their gender. He and his partner Maggie have been together for over 50 years, many of those involved in sexuality education and advocacy activities.

Rev. David Meredith
(see bio on page 43)

Israel I. Alvaran is an ordained Elder in the Philippines Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. He has served in various ministry settings as pastor, youth minister, and faculty at a UMC university and seminary in the Philippines. He is currently under episcopal appointment to serve as an organizer with Reconciling Ministries Network. A long-time activist, Israel worked as Person-in-Mission of the UMC General Board of Global Ministries for the Manila Episcopal Area, focusing on advocacy for low-wage workers. Prior to joining RMN, he served as national organizer for economic justice with the UMC General Board of Church and Society. A political asylee from the Philippines, Israel lives in San Francisco, CA, and is immersed in the life of his community. Israel has a Masters of Divinity degree and a Masters of Theology degree from Union Theological Seminary in the Philippines. With a dissertation focused on faith-rooted organizing, he received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, in 2010 as a recipient of the UMC Crusade Scholarship.

Dr. Randall Miller
(see bio on page 12)
**Vicki L. Woods** is a retired elder in the New England Annual Conference having served 32 years in local churches and as a District Superintendent. She also holds Dual Covenant in the Church Within the Church Movement. She has been privileged to serve on the boards of directors on RMN, MFSA, and the Commission on Religion and Race. She has attended the past several General Conferences as a delegate or volunteer working for justice and inclusion for all within our denomination.

**David Mauzey** served 10 years as a member of the board of Reconciling Ministries Network in two stints between 2004 and 2017. During his tenure, he served at various times as chair of the Program Committee and as treasurer, vice chair, and chair of the board. David has been a member of First United Methodist Church in Austin, Texas, since 1992 and has served as process coach for more than a dozen communities exploring affiliation with RMN since 2001. His involvement the reconciling movement has included attendance at eight Convocations and participation with the Common Witness/Love Your Neighbor Coalition at three General Conferences, including leadership roles in 2012 and 2016.

**Jarell Wilson** (see bio on page 11)

**Ann Craig** is a lifelong United Methodist. She was a US-2 missionary in Virginia after attending Nebraska Wesleyan and is a graduate of Yale Divinity School. Ann was staff at GBGM and United Methodist Women national offices from 1985-2006. She was Co-Convener of Affirmation in the late 90’s. She served as an alternate from NY Annual Conference to General Conference 2004 and elected as 2nd alternate to GC 2019. As the first director of religion at the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Ann helped LGBT people in Presbyterian and Lutheran traditions drop their prohibitions. Currently, Ann is co-spokesperson for Affirmation, a consultant at The Fellowship Global working with LGBTQ people in East Africa, and communications consultant for Metropolitan Community Churches.
Come to St. Louis in February 2019

Join us for our closing plenary as Dorothee Benz leads us in recapping the weekend and the charge to St. Louis in February of 2019. Hear from the RMN regional organizers and other movement leaders as to why you should join us. Hear the call, join the movement, show up and be counted.

Dr. Dorothee Benz has been a Methodist since immigrating to the U.S. with her family in 1968. She is a member of St. Paul & St. Andrew UMC in New York City. Benz was a delegate to the 2016 General Conference where she helped lead the effort, on and off the floor, that led to the suspension of further anti-LGBTQI legislation, the creation of the Commission on the Way Forward, and the call for the 2019 special General Conference. She is a founding member of Methodists in New Directions (MIND) and helped pioneer the strategy of open, collective defiance of the church’s discriminatory rules. Benz served as MIND’s chair from 2006 to 2014 and is now MIND’s national representative.

A lifelong activist and organizer, her scholarly expertise is also in social movements. She has been active in the labor movement, the anti-apartheid movement, the queer rights movement, and the Movement for Black Lives. She holds a B.A. from Harvard University and a Ph.D. from the City University of New York. Benz is the winner of the 2012 Gwen and C. Dale White Award from the NY Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action, and served as the Theologian in Residence at First UMC Boulder in July 2013. By day, she works as the chief communications officer at Lambda Legal; and in her spare time, she pumps iron, climbs mountains and builds sandcastles. Follow her on Twitter @DrBenz3.
“There is nothing new under the sun,” or so declaims the writer of Ecclesiastes (1:9). In this spirit, we are approaching Bible study at For Everyone Born with the basic understanding that our pasts and presents are ceaselessly entwined. The social, political, and ecclesial distresses we are experiencing now are both specific to the present moment and are repetitions of the past.

So what can we learn by taking seriously the interconnections not just among those of us who gather but also among our ancestors?

As we turn to scripture for ancient wisdom and understanding, we start with the assumption that big ideas—of wisdom, justice, truth, love, unity—are never abstracted from everyday life. Wisdom is enfleshed. Justice is lived. Truth is experienced. Love is embodied. And unity, that wily buzzword of our supposed Way Forward, is meaningful only to the extent that each member of the Body can genuinely know and claim belonging. And so this will be a Bible study aimed at making connections across time. We will seek to name the truth of each moment as plainly as we see it. Who is present? Who is absent? Why? What are the forces that structure relationality? Whose visions of justice and healing prevail? What too are the alternative potentials yet to be realized, or rather, that have always been possible but that we have yet to realize?

We will consider contexts, drawing on scholarship that elucidates the socio-political and material contexts of biblical texts in their ancient settings. We will consider histories of interpretation, highlighting the varieties of ways people have found and made meaning of scripture, both for domination and for liberation. And we will consider ourselves, our own contexts, and our experiences of the Divine as enfleshed and enfleshing, of God With Us, ever creating, ever reconciling, and ever transforming.

By paying close attention to scripture, which is to pay close attention to the bodies and lives with which scripture is entangled, we will we study with urgency, both for critique of unjust, harmful relations and for the joy, healing, and transformation that are Good News.

Our study will be centered around just one story, told in two forms, to practice careful attention to the details as we read. As we return to this gospel narrative each session, we will seek to view the texts through multiple lenses, to consider the varieties of implications, and to connect with the different themes of each day. For ease of reference, the texts are copied as translated in the NRSV [with slight modification, along with key Greek terms].
Matthew 8:5–13

5When he entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, appealing to him and saying, “Lord, my servant [or slave, boy, or boy-love] (pais) is lying at home paralyzed, in terrible distress.” 6And he said to him, “I will come and cure him.” 8The centurion answered, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only speak the word, and my servant (pais) will be healed. 7For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave (doulos), ‘Do this,’ and the slave does it.” 9When Jesus heard him, he was amazed and said to those who followed him, “Truly I tell you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. 10I tell you, many will come from east and west and will eat with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, 11while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” 12And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you according to your faith.” And the servant (pais) was healed in that hour.

Luke 7:1–10

1After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. 2A centurion there had a slave (doulos) whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. 3When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. 4When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, “He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us.” 5And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; 7therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my slave (pais) be healed. 8For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave (doulos), ‘Do this,’ and the slave does it.” 9When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, “I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.” 10When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave (doulos) in good health.
Rev Dr. Tyler Schwaller
is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and the Ackerman/Hurdle Chaplaincy Chair at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. He is also an ordained deacon in The United Methodist Church, with membership in the Iowa Annual Conference. Tyler recently completed a Th.D. (Doctor of Theology) at Harvard University in the area of New Testament and Early Christianity, writing a dissertation entitled “The Use of Slaves in Early Christianity: Slaves as Subjects of Life and Thought.” His research and teaching interests include slavery in the Roman Empire; women, gender, and sexuality in early Christianity; feminist, queer, and critical race theory; archaeology and material culture; as well as the ethics of biblical interpretation. These interests converge around particular concern for how we tell the stories of those who have been marginalized and for bringing attention to people’s intellectual, spiritual, and embodied strategies for navigating their social and material circumstances. As an out, queer clergyperson in the UMC, Tyler finds particular joy and meaning through kinship and solidarity with other queer folks, whose lives and loves reflect something of the Good News.

Rev. Tonya Parker is the Assistant Dean of Students for Diversity and Inclusion at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia, and the Associate Pastor of Macon First Assembly of God. Rev. Parker holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from Wesleyan College and a Master of Arts in Theology from Christian Life School of Theology Global. She works independently and collaboratively under her trade-marked title, Inclusion Practitioner™, for civil discourse and dialogue facilitations, diversity and inclusion workshops and trainings and public speaking events. Parker obtained her license and ordination into the ministry in 2015. She attended Harvest Cathedral in Macon for 18 years where she served as youth pastor, lay minister, women’s group leader, children’s church teacher, and a missionary to Honduras and Nicaragua. During the summers of 2006 and 2009, she served as lead missionary outside of the city of Masaya, Nicaragua, for women and children who had been rescued from domestic abuse, neglect and abandonment. Parker served as Director of Education for the Tubman African American Museum from 2012–2016, where she designed and implemented new learning formats to increase museum program offerings. She added the International African Children’s Village component to the Tubman’s annual Pan African Festival in 2014.
RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK

Making a place at the table for people of all genders & sexual orientations for over 30 years.

TO BECOME A RECONCILING UNITED METHODIST OR A RECONCILING COMMUNITY, VISIT: www.rmnetwork.org
Learn more about WMJM and sign up for our news at wmjm.org.

Visit our website now!
Scan this code with your phone.

THE WESTERN METHODIST JUSTICE MOVEMENT

WMJM is a multi-cultural and inclusive community of United Methodists in the western United States. Our movement enables networks of activists to work together on common passions for justice in our church and the world.

Join our movement for life-changing events that can transform the church and the world.

We have held two justice-oriented retreats, at Lake Tahoe (2014) and in Portland, Oregon (2017). At our Portland event, “Rise Up!” - Bishop Karen Oliveto, Mountain Sky Episcopal Area, and Beth Zemsky, intercultural organization development trainer, enlightened and inspired over 150 activists from 17 Conferences and 20 ethnicities.

WMJM has 7 dynamic Action Networks

JUST LOVE (LGBTQI), EARTH AND NEIGHBORS (global environment), LIFE CHOICES (self- and body-care), DOCUMENTED BY LOVE (immigration/migration), COLONIALISM / IMPERIALISM (Israel/Palestine, Philippines), and CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING.

Don’t see your justice passion here? Get in touch to learn about the latest networks:
Contact our Convener, Rev. Frank Wulf at revfrankwulf@gmail.com.
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<td>and Rev. Alex Souto</td>
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WORKSHOPS

Children and Youth

~ Saturday  3:30 – 5:00 p.m. LINDBERGH

A1  These Are Our Bodies  – Talking about faith and sexuality at church and home requires a partnership between churches and families. This workshop seeks to empower individuals, especially youth leaders, to connect faith with bodies, gender, and sexuality through faithful exploration and discussion.

Abbi Long is the co-author of These Are Our Bodies: Talking Faith and Sexuality at Church and Home, published through Church Publishing, Inc. for ages preschool through middle school.

~ Friday  3:45 – 5:15 p.m. ILLINOIS

A2  LGBTQ+ Children and Youth in the Life of the Local Church  – This workshop will equip adults who work with children and youth with information on how to develop, author, and implement best policies and practices for the inclusion and protection of LGBTQ+ children and youth into the life of the local church programing. Topics will also include pastoral care of children, youth, parents and families, and how to support families who have been harmed by the church and are looking for safe places to belong.

Jennifer Solis is the Director of Senior High Youth and College Ministries at Boston Avenue Church in Tulsa, OK. Jennifer holds a bachelor’s degree in religion and a master’s degree in special education. Jennifer is passionate about youth leadership development, creating God’s vision of community on earth, inclusion, coffee and cats.
# Workshops

## Sacred Resistance as an Expression of Christ’s Love
- **B1**
- **Saturday 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.**
- **Boone**
- This workshop explores our experience that true Kingdom-building “Sacred Resistance” is based on Jesus’ teaching to love one another as God loves us. Jesus makes this calling so clear in Matthew 22. We will use examples of experiences from the past year to re-enforce our central theme of resisting injustice with love inspired by God. Experiences we’ll share include talking with lawmakers on Capitol Hill, protesting for social justice, doing acts of civil disobedience, and participating in prayer vigils, all showing how the Spirit inspires compassion and collaboration when we approach resistance with love. We’ll do role playing with specific situations to help folks turn their heart-felt “righteous anger” into a loving expression of what they believe the Spirit is telling us is right and just.

### Ed Crump
- A lay leader and native Washingtonian from Foundry UMC in Washington, DC.
- Ed is Foundry’s representative to the DMV Sanctuary Congregation Network and a member of the board of that ministry.
- Ed also is a regular volunteer with Foundry’s ID Ministry, providing birth certificates and ID’s to some of the most vulnerable among us.
- Ed’s day job is in Information Technology with the Department of the Interior.

### Rev. Ben Roberts
- A North Carolina native from Oak Island.
- After graduating from Greensboro College in 2008 Ben enrolled at Wesley Theological Seminary.
- During his seminary years he worked an internship with former North Carolina Congressman Brad Miller and spent one year abroad teaching English in Burkina Faso.
- Upon graduating Wesley, Ben filled an interim position at Foundry UMC, then was hired full-time as the Director of Social Justice Ministries.

## Decolonizing, Disrupting, Dismantling: Queer Movements in the Imperialist Church
- **B2**
- **Friday 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. & 3:45 – 5:15 p.m.**
- **St. Charles**
- Queer movements working for LGBTQ liberation within the Church are bound by the institutional power and privilege that have established Christendom systems of racism, sexism, and heteronormative patriarchy. Participants will examine these systems, and queer justice movements, to interrogate ways in which our own practices have recapitulated the dominant “norms.” Calling on the shared wisdom of participants, the workshop will develop skills to disrupt the practices that privilege whiteness and perpetuate systemic oppression.
- **This is a 3-hour workshop** over two sessions.
Rev. Israel I. Alvaran is an ordained Elder in the Philippines Annual Conference of the UMC who has served as pastor, youth minister, and university and seminary faculty in the Philippines. He is currently under appointment to serve as an organizer with Reconciling Ministries Network. A long-time activist, Israel worked as Person-in-Mission of the UMC General Board of Global Ministries for the Manila Episcopal Area, focusing on advocacy for low-wage workers. He was also a community outreach organizer for UNITE HERE Local 2, and Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice of California.

Rev. Lois Parr has served congregations in the Chicago area and is an activist for justice for LGBTQ people in the United Methodist Church. Lois believes that speaking the truth about systems of power, privilege, and oppression—and examining the ways in which racism harms white people—is critical to our nation’s need for race reparations. Lois is facilitator for a Justice League Network of Educators (Washtenaw County, Michigan), Albion-Marshall Resilient Communities Project (Albion, Michigan), and Allies for Change (based in Michigan); she also serves as a Chaplain in Chelsea, Michigan.

~ Friday 3:45 - 5:15 p.m.

B3 Show Me Democracy: an Award-Winning Documentary Film – This workshop will make use of this documentary film, Show Me Democracy, to stimulate group discussion surrounding the broader issues of racial and social injustice that are impacting the marginalized in America: people of color, immigrants, members of the LBBTQ+ community, etc. This powerful film will leave the audience with questions and ideally a new perspective on what each of us can do to demand positive change in America through both policy and protest. There will be a panel discussion following the film with representation from the various groups represented in the film, DACA, LGBTQ, African-American, Law Enforcement.

Maurice Parisien is an accomplished entrepreneur and marketing strategist with over 40 years of success in multiple industries including healthcare, technology, retail, financial services, consumer packaged goods and marketing services industries. He is a board member of Bridge Bread Bakery that provides job skills training and a living wage for homeless men and women, allowing its workers to earn an income that moves them off the streets and into permanent housing. His ultimate passion is Sneakers with Soul, a ministry that he launched at his local church in 2010. In October 2017, Maurice established Sneakers with Soul, as a standalone, non-profit 501(c)(3) that provides new high-quality brand-name sneakers for children and youth in need.
B4  Why We Should Be in Solidarity with Palestinian Christians — For the past decade, the indigenous church in Palestine has been asking Christians around the world to stand in solidarity with them in their suffering and in their nonviolent movement for basic human rights. Giselle will share what she has seen personally and how she came to be supportive of their efforts, and John will share how United Methodists have tried to make a difference. There will be time for discussion.

Giselle Lawn is a transgender woman and former RMN board member. She has applied to be a UMC international missionary and has lived and served the last six months in Palestine for the World Council of Churches in the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program for Palestine and Israel.

Rev. John Wagner is Co-Chair of United Methodists Kairos Response.

B5  Intercultural Development and Hofstede’s Dimensions — Have you found yourself in a group and realized that everyone has different values and ideas? Different ways of being in the world? Wondered, “How can I hold this difference together?” This workshop reviews the Intercultural Development Continuum (IDC) and Hofstede’s Cultural Dimensions theory. The IDC is a way of discussing how we hold differences among us or how we judge differences. It also gives us a developmental task if we chose to accept it. Hofstede’s theory relates to understanding cultural norms of worldwide cultures and what we need to consider when we work across borders so that we do not trample another culture’s values unknowingly. The IDC and Hofstede’s Cultural Dimensions are cross-cultural, research-validated tools.

The Rev. Terri Stewart is the Director of the Youth Chaplaincy Coalition, a program of the Church Council of Greater Seattle. They are an elder from the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference who focuses on working with incarcerated youth and how community members can be carriers of hope for the hopeless.
C1 Radical Hospitality for Transgender and Gender Creative Children and Youth – Lorena Cory tells the moving story of the “radical hospitality” she experienced at her church as she navigated the journey from the first communication by her preschool-age child that he was confused as to why God had given him a boy’s body. Her first encounter with another parent of a gender creative child several years later at a PRN workshop for parents of LGBTQ children, led to the development of a vision to create a safe meeting space where her child and other children like hers could meet, make friends, and learn that they are not “the only kid in the world like this” as her own daughter had feared was true. Since Pinwheels began its monthly gatherings five years ago, Lorena has discovered that a support group for transgender and gender creative children also provides parents a chance to share resources and support.

Lorena Cory is a member of First UMC in Arlington Heights, IL, and the founder of Pinwheels, a support group for families with gender creative children. Lorena started Pinwheels in March 2011 out of her family’s needs. Pinwheels has grown to include children 4 - 18 years of age, with two more sites, including one site here in St. Louis. Pinwheels has become an oasis for over 100 families.

C2 Providing Safety and Support for Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Persons and Their Families, Friends and Allies – Based on the experiences of TransDecatur in Decatur, GA and Trans Spectrum of Arizona in Phoenix, this workshop will discuss the experiences, challenges and successes of two support groups that are based in and supported by a United Methodist Church and a United Church of Christ, respectively. The leaders of the workshop founded TransDecatur, which meets twice a month since May 2017.

Quinn Hudson is the father of Wallace, a 25-year-old transgender man who works for the Phoenix Central School District. They have been members of Decatur First UMC for more than 30 years.
WORKSHOPS
Local Church & Conference Work

~ Saturday  3:30 - 5:00 p.m.  

D1  Peacemaking Circles: Running Meetings, Keeping the Peace — This workshop will offer an experiential learning of a Peacemaking Circle (as passed to me by Saroeum Phoung who was taught by Chief Mark Wedge of the Tagish and Tlingit First Nation people) to learn how to create a space where all voices can be heard and held. We currently use Peacemaking Circles to do healing work with youth, communities, victims, offenders, and the justice system to divert high-level violent felonies from the punitive justice system. Peacemaking Circles help people to be true to who they are and encourages allowing others to hold to their own sacred truth with the foundational value being: The only person you can change is yourself.

The Rev. Terri Stewart is the Director of the Youth Chaplaincy Coalition, a program of the Church Council of Greater Seattle. They are an elder from the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference who focuses on working with incarcerated youth and how community members can be carriers of hope for the hopeless.

~ Friday  2:00-3:30 p.m.  OR  Saturday 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.  

D2  7 Issues to Master for a Biblical Defense of LGBTQI+ Inclusion — While the idea of promoting LGBTQI+ inclusion and affirmation may seem daunting, the arguments against it tend to fall into predictable patterns. Because of this, having a Bible-based foundation and a framework for response is achievable. This workshop presents seven pillars of understanding which equip attendees to begin engaging in discussion and form a basis for continued study. Topics include: Who is God?; What is the Bible?; Jesus and the Law; Can a Christian be a Sinner?; Who Does Jesus Condemn and Why?; Male and Female, God Created Them; Sexuality and Marriage. Each section is based on particular kinds of arguments participants are likely to hear and will include examples of those statements and potential responses for them.

Suzanne DeWitt Hall is an author and a frequent contributor to the RMN blog. She and her wife will be participating in an LGBTQ+ panel moderated by Trish Gunby at Missouri Annual Conference in June. You can check out her LGBTQI+ devotional at www.wheretrueloveis.com. She is currently working on a companion book specifically for non-binary and transgender people.
D3  Energizing Your Annual Conference from the Ground Up – Members of Baltimore Washington Area Reconciling United Methodists (BWARM) and Virginia Reconciling United Methodists (VRUM) will share methods, resources, and strategies for mobilizing RUMs in your Annual Conference. Baltimore Washington and Virginia Reconcilers have effectively organized within each Annual Conference (district by district) and across Conference boundaries for the past 10 years. Attendees will learn practical techniques for reaching, teaching, and organizing individuals and church groups for moving towards a fully inclusive UMC. Some time will be allowed for brainstorming with small groups.

Mark Elder and Dr. Mittie Quinn are members of the Virginia and Baltimore Washington Annual Conferences, respectively. Mark is a member of Fairlington UMC in Alexandria, VA, and Mittie attends Dumbarton UMC in Washington, DC. They have worked with individual United Methodists, local UM churches, and within their Annual Conferences toward the full inclusion of LGBTQ individuals in the United Methodist Church. They also collaborate across their neighboring conference boundaries creating opportunities to further the mission and work of the Reconciling Ministries Network.

SOULARD

D4  The Reconciling Process—Using the “Building an Inclusive Church Toolkit” – Do you want to help your congregation, Sunday School class or campus ministry go through the reconciling process? Or maybe there is a church in your area you’d like to help? Then this is the workshop for you! We will walk through the Institute of Welcoming Resources’ Building an Inclusive Church Toolkit and the eleven steps they outline. There will be a question and answer session with folks who have recently been through the process in their congregation.

Alex Shanks is a Christian trans-man and spoken word poet currently serving as the North Central Regional Organizer for RMN. Previously he’s served in a variety of capacities in the United Methodist Church, many revolving around discipleship of different ages. He lives in Ohio with his wife Rachael and their two dogs, Maya and Kaiser.
Starting with the Bible — Too often in discussions in our churches about LGBTQ concerns, the temperature rises when the Bible is introduced. We tend to think that talking about the Bible gets in the way of our justice-seeking endeavors. However, the Bible can be a starting point for tough discussions in our churches—whether that be in an African or American context. The Bible can provide the grounding for meeting together, building relationships, and talking lovingly about difficult issues. Come, listen, and share our passion as Christians for the Bible which informs and enlivens our faith.

Rev. Grace Imathiu was born and raised in a Methodist preacher’s home in Kenya and appointed Lead Pastor of First UMC, Evanston, I, as of July 1, 2018. She previously served at Community UMC in Naperville, Illinois. Grace was ordained in the Methodist Church in Kenya and has served churches in Kenya and the U.S. Rev. Imathiu was educated in Kenya, the U.S., England, and at the Hebrew University at Mt. Scopus. Grace is author of two books, is married to photographer David Hay Jones, and is the mother of one son.

Resource Area

Grand Foyer outside the Grand Ballroom

Jim Dietrich Graphics from Madison, WI will have some fabulous souvenir items with the For Everyone Born, RMN, MFSA and other logos on them including...

T-shirts ~ Polo Shirts ~ Buttons and Key Tags including Rainbow Pride items

Resource Area Vending Hours:

Thursday, July 26 ~ Noon-8 pm
Saturday, July 28 ~ 9 am-1 pm
check for afternoon times around free time and before the evening banquet

Friday, July 27 ~ 10am - 8 pm
Sunday, July 29 ~ 9 am-Noon
E1 Organizing a United Methodist LGBTQ Caucus — The UM Queer Clergy Caucus is hosting a workshop that will lay the groundwork for envisioning and organizing a connection-wide caucus of LGBTQ United Methodists. As we prepare for the called General Conference in 2019, it is important to have the unique voice and witness of LGBTQIA+ United Methodists who are often talked about but almost never included in the conversation. This workshop seeks to provide space to learn a brief history of queer organizing in the UMC, envision what this new caucus would look like, adopt its mission and vision, and form an organizing team to lead the effort to give birth to this caucus which will include both laity and clergy in the UMC who identify as LGBTQIA+. It is open exclusively to LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Rev. Israel I. Alvaran
(see page 18 for bio)

Rev. Lois McCullen Parr
(see page 30 for bio)

Rev. Alex da Silva Souto, a queer, cisgender male and an immigrant of color, has been a person of the “in between space” since his birth and childhood in Brazil. After living in Japan for nearly two years, he moved to San Francisco, California where he served as a lay leader in the California-Nevada Annual Conference. He transferred his membership to the New York Annual Conference during his studies at Yale Divinity School. He is currently the Senior Pastor of the New Milford UMC in Connecticut and a devoted social justice advocate.
E2 How the Love Your Neighbor Coalition Works Together for Justice in the UMC — This workshop will provide a panel of representatives of different groups participating in the Love Your Neighbor Coalition (LYNC). They will reflect and share on what LYNC is doing and how this coalition work is beneficial to their organization and discuss where this coalition may be going in the future.

Jan Lawrence, Executive Director of Reconciling Ministries Network, is a lay member of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference. Her passions are social justice, inclusion of all in God’s church, and unity of the church. She recognizes the tension that the fight for inclusion of LGBTQ people has created between those passions. She has been a leader on the LGBTQ Advocacy team at Foundry UMC in Washington D.C. since the 2012 General Conference. She is currently studying at Wesley Seminary. Professionally, her background is in Engineering Management and Program Management. Jan has been active in her church, community, and at Wesleyan College for many years. She realized a few years ago that she enjoyed her volunteer activities more than she did her career. Her next steps led her to her current role at RMN. When the opportunity to join the RMN team came, she did not hesitate, believing that she could combine her passions in one place. In a little over a year, Jan has learned to love and value the full breadth of the justice movement in The United Methodist Church and is more committed that ever to influencing change and justice for LGBTQ people. She lives in Washington D.C. with her spouse, Lindi Lewis, and their 8 year-old Welsh terrier, Higgins.

Frank Wulf, Co-Convener LYNC Leadership Team, is currently the pastor of the Echo Park United Methodist Church, a multicultural congregation located near downtown Los Angeles. He has also served as the pastor of United University Church, a Presbyterian and United Methodist congregation on the campus of the University of Southern California, and as the United Methodist Campus Minister at the University of California Los Angeles. Rev. Wulf has served on numerous occasions as a reserve delegate to the General Conference and as a full delegate to the Western Jurisdictional Conference. In 2016, he was nominated as a candidate for the Episcopacy by the California-Pacific Conference. Rev. Wulf serves as the Convener of the Western Methodist Justice Movement and as Co-Convener with Cynthia Kent of the Love Your Neighbor Coalition.
Kevin Nelson, Co-Convener LYNC Strategy Team, is an activist who works to use his white, male privilege for righteous insurrection against unjust power structures that serve to marginalize and oppress individuals and communities. He has been serving as the co-chair of the Love Your Neighbor Coalition’s General Conference strategy team since the end of 2014. He has co-chaired RMN’s national legal team and providing ecclesiastical legal services to clergy who run afoul of United Methodist church law by officiating at same-sex weddings or being in a same-sex relationship.

Kevin is a home missioner with 12 years of nonprofit experience, including past work for the General Board of Global Ministries. He is a graduate of Drew Theological School and Oklahoma City University. Next month he will begin pursuing his J.D. at Albany Law School in Albany, NY. He is currently a member of the Upper New York Annual Conference, with past connections in the New England, New York, and North Texas Annual Conferences. Kevin is a past member of the board of directors for the Methodist Federation for Social Action and of the Scarritt Bennett Center in Nashville, TN. He was also an alternate delegate to the 2012 and 2008 General Conferences and a member of the 2012 and 2008 Northeastern Jurisdictional Conferences and 2000 South Central Jurisdictional Conference. He currently serves as the Program Council representative for the Upper New York MFSA and chairs the Intersectional Justice Committee in his congregation, First United Methodist Church in Schenectady, NY.

Ben Roe, Western Methodist Justice Movement, is a “preacher’s kid,” a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University and Claremont School of Theology, a former UM minister in Nebraska, sexuality educator, pastoral counselor, and activist. He has been a tech support leader and trainer, a Conference communications staffer at the Rocky Mountain Conference, and an editor for the Love Your Neighbor Coalition General Conference publication in 2012 and 2016. He has been an activist for inclusion of LGBTQ persons in the United Methodist Church for years, attending his first Affirmation meeting in 1978 in Dayton, while exploring his newly-acknowledged “bisexual” orientation. Since gender is non-binary, he now celebrates attractions to persons regardless of their gender. He and his partner Maggie have been together for over 50 years, many of those involved in sexuality education and advocacy activities.
E3 The Long March Toward Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors: Are We There Yet? – Through its 240+ year history, the United Methodist Church has journeyed far, but has always committed to, yet struggled with, social justice and faith. This workshop will review the long arc of history that has led us to the present time, highlighting key events along the way. The content provides an excellent review for long-time justice seekers, but is also an introduction to those who are just starting. The presentation materials will also be made available for use in local conferences.

Mittie Quinn is a lifelong United Methodist and a member of Dumbarton UMC, one of the first churches to join the Reconciling Churches program in 1981. She is a past chair of the Baltimore Washington Area Reconciling United Methodists (BWARM). Mittie is recently retired from her position as a school psychologist and adjunct faculty member at George Mason University. She and her husband, Jim, are avid travelers when they are not at home in Northern Virginia.

E4 Remembering and Reflecting on our Roots – Hear stories and reflections from early leaders of LGBTQ advocacy movements in the UMC. Rick Huskey, Keith Spare and Steve Webster participated in the organizing meeting of Affirmation (then the Gay UM Caucus) in 1975. Kathryn Mitchem and Beth A. Richardson became involved shortly thereafter. Their stories will illustrate how the social and church situations were quite different four decades ago, yet their experiences can inform our movement today. This is a unique opportunity to engage in dialogue with a few of our pioneers.

Mark Bowman (facilitator) participated in Affirmation’s work at the 1980 General Conference and was one of the early leaders of the Reconciling movement that was launched in 1983-84. He served as the executive director of Reconciling Congregation Program until 1999 and continues in a consulting role assisting with convocation and event planning.
F1 Conversation with Commission on A Way Forward Members — Four members of the Commission on A Way Forward—Brian Adkins, Matt Berryman, Scott Johnson and Dave Nuckols (see pages 12-13 for bios)—will share insights and reflections on their two-year journey with this United Methodist body that was charged with preparing recommendations for General Conference 2019. The session will also include ample time for questions from and dialogue with you and other participants.

Dr. Randall Miller (facilitator) is a layperson from the California-Nevada Annual Conference and the Principal of Oaktown Consulting. A long-time activist for full inclusion, Randall has served as a national spokesperson for Affirmation and on the RMN. He has also served as the Chair of the Commission on the General Conference, First Lay Alternate to the UM Judicial Council, and Vice-President of the General Board of Church and Society.

F2 Allyship in Times Such as These — Being an ally is not simple. Nor is it insignificant. Every movement needs allies, and when allies use their power responsibly, they can be a powerful force for justice. But, as many LGBTQ people can attest, there are far too many unreliable, problematic, or even harmful allies in our movement. As the UMC prepares for the 2019 General Conference, allies will be crucial, and the actions of allies will affect the lives of LGBTQ lay people and clergy in the UMC. This session will define allyship, offer a set of principles for allies, and provide concrete do’s and don’ts for allies. Participants will also have a chance to hear from lay and ordained LGBTQ Methodists about what they need from allies. Participants will engage in group and paired discussions, interactive activities, and individual reflections.

Drew Kronow serves as the Director of Communications and LGBTQ Programs at the Religious Institute. A graduate of SMU and Yale Divinity School, he is also a scholar of American religious history with an emphasis on sexuality, social activism, and popular culture.
F3 Building Bridges: LYNC’s International Hospitality Team — Strengthening relationships across the global connection to achieve long-term social change and effective witness is the mission of Love Your Neighbor Coalition’s international hospitality team. This workshop introduces participants to the work of this team, will lift up ideas and approaches to relational organizing, and share stories of meaningful and successful ministries borne out of strong relationships across culture and language within the United Methodist connection.

Richard Bentley is one of the co-chairs for the International Hospitality Team of LYNC, which is working towards long-term changes in the relationships between progressive United Methodists in the U.S. and progressive United Methodists around the world. He has extensive cross-cultural experience, having served as lead pastor of three different churches that worshiped in two languages as well as an associate pastor in a Black congregation and lead pastor in a Filipino congregation. He has traveled to both Africa and the Philippines, meeting United Methodists and building long-term relationships.

Dennis Akpona is an LGBTQ activist from Nigeria. While in Nigeria Dennis worked in the nonprofit sector for many organizations including Journalists Against AIDS, Initiative for Equal Rights, and Population Council. Since fleeing to the United States, Dennis has not stopped working for, and on behalf of, LGBT individuals. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree at the University at Buffalo in Social Work. Dennis works for RMN as the African Central Conferences coordinator with the primary responsibility of building a relationship between United Methodist Clergy and the LGBTQ communities in West Africa.

F4 Love Your Neighbor Coalition’s Listening Posts — LYNC’s international hospitality team is hosting listening posts in Portland (August 2018) and in parts of Africa and the Philippines in 2019. These are designed to allow United Methodists to bridge differences in culture and language, learn from each other, and strengthen our witness for social justice together. Come and learn how you can be part of these events.

Richard Bentley and Dennis Akpona [see above.]
**G1  Hope Floats* — As lies about LGBTQ people are told—lies that limit welcome within the UMC—we are challenged again. Can we stay in this abusive denominational relationship or must we find a new trust in a new path? For many, either choice is experienced as a tug by the Spirit, a calling, toward authentic witness. In this workshop with a possibility that the UMC can be a community of inclusion, we shall cast for a new vision of following Jesus as Reconciling people. We shall confront our failed attempts and we shall strive to keep an integrity within our hope. No worries—we have scripture, tradition, experience, and reason to buoy our attempts. We know sacramental connection and grace.

The Rev. Sue Laurie has been present in the struggle for love and full inclusion for LGBTQ people within the United Methodist Church for over twenty years, working as witness with various programs of the Reconciling Ministries Network. She received her M.Div. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in 1995 but was denied ordination because of Book of Discipline rules. She continued to offer ministry however, serving with RMN as National Outreach Coordinator. At the 2016 UMC General Conference she received her “grassroots ordination” with the support of Love Prevails. In 2017, she received the Bishop Talbert Reconciling Ministries Award. Sue is married to Julie Bruno, her spouse of 35 years.

**G2  Revive: Exploring Self-Care Strategies and Accessibility —** This workshop will explore the intersection of self care/soul care and accessibility. In this day and time we are at within the world and the church it is essential we take care of one another. This workshop will provide participants with strategies for self care and how to improve accessibility within your circles and congregations.

Allyssa Green, MA is a consultant and special education teacher where she creates supports for individuals with disabilities and helps congregations become inclusive and accessible. She has served on the former United Methodist committee on disability and as a leader with a number of United Methodist Women events including mission U and National Seminar.
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maddendigitalbooks.com/stlvg18/
**Worship-Music Coordinator**

**Grace Cox-Johnson** holds a bachelor of music in vocal performance from Wheaton College Conservatory of Music and a master’s degree in church music from Scarritt Graduate School. Grace is a fiber artist and dyer, whose company, Color 4 the Journey, specializes in art for worship settings. She has given workshops in the fields of church music, the use of symbols and colors in liturgy and worship, as well as many hands-on workshops in various surface design techniques with fabric and dyes. Currently Grace is also the Artistic Director for Transfinity KC, the Director of Music at Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church in Raytown, MO and adjunct staff at Community Christian Church in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Guest Preachers**

**Rev. Sean Delmore** is a provisional deacon in the New England Conference who bridges the church and secularized world in part by keeping one foot rooted in each sphere: in addition to serving as Pastor of a Vermont village church, Sean is appointed as an Administrator to Dartmouth College (New Hampshire). An adult convert to Christianity, Sean was called into faith through the ministry of a LGBTQ mission congregation of The United Methodist Church. With Sean’s earliest Christian years shaped by transformative experiences at Convocations and General Conferences, Sean considers connectional gatherings to be church “home.” As a queer trans person, Sean enjoys the possibilities that grow out of in-between spaces, and is learning to thrive at the intersections of states, ministry settings, and cultural contexts. Sean shares a home with a beloved spouse and stepchildren, and any of God’s dear ones who drop in for rest amid their travels.

**Rev. David Meredith** has served as the pastor of Clifton UMC in Cincinnati, Ohio, since 2012. A 1984 graduate of Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, Missouri, David previously served as: Chaplain of Research Medical Center, Kansas City; Associate Pastor at 1st Presbyterian Church in North Kansas City; Oxford United Methodist Church in Oxford, Ohio; and Armstrong Chapel UMC in Indian Hill; Executive Director of Inter Parish Ministry in eastern Hamilton County and western Clermont County; and Senior Pastor of Broad Street UMC in Columbus, Ohio. David
Guest Preachers

**Rev. David Meredith, continued**

has been a leader in RMN and Affirmation for more than 30 years. He married his long-time partner, Jim Schlachter, on May 7, 2016, at the Broad Street Church. Two days after the wedding ceremony, the first complaints about Meredith’s sexual orientation were filed with the West Ohio Conference. In October 2017, He was exonerated of two of three charges brought against him by the Conference’s Committee on Investigation. He faced a second hearing with the North Central Jurisdictional Committee on Appeals in March.

**Rev. Starsky D. Wilson** is president & CEO of Deaconess Foundation, pastor of Saint John’s Church (The Beloved Community) and chair of the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy. His faith-rooted activism centers philanthropy, democracy and equity. With Wilson’s leadership, Deaconess is building a movement for child well-being. They recently opening a collaborative community action tank and a network of three Freedom Schools with the Children’s Defense Fund. After the death of Michael Brown, Jr., Wilson led the Ferguson Commission. In 2015 they released Forward Through Ferguson: A Path Toward Racial Equity, calling for sweeping changes in policing, the courts, child well-being and economic mobility. In 2017, Wilson chaired the racial equity advisory group of Grantmakers for Effective Organizations, guiding a charge for the affirmation of equity as central to smart philanthropy.

**T.C. Morrow** is on the staff of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture and a candidate for ordained ministry in the Baltimore-Washington Conference of The United Methodist Church. She holds an M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary and a BA in Physics from Vassar College. T.C. is the communications chair for the Baltimore-Washington Area Reconciling United Methodists. She and her wife are members of Foundry UMC in Washington, DC and they serve as foster parents with the Prince George’s County Department of Social Services. T.C. has a love of jigsaw puzzles, skiing, and science fiction. A lifelong United Methodist, T.C. has a passion for equipping people to put their faith into action for the sake of building up the kingdom of God.
**Shamar Jordan, Keyboardist**

For more than two decades of providing musical entertainment, Shamar Jordan has been doing just that as he’s rolled with the highs and lows that come with being a working artist, and these days he found himself in the right place at the right time. Now at the age of 37, this young local icon, whom fellow colleague Rev. James Anderson once described as “a student, yet a scholar,” continues to take all that life has to offer, traveling and spanning the nation with his skills and abilities as an artistic coordinator, musician, choral director, songwriter, and preacher. Shamar has worked with a plethora of well known artists, and continues to utilize and cultivate the gift of musical comprehension that has been intrinsically placed in him. His objective is not only to work as a mere performer; but also a motivation for those desiring to travel the same road. As stated by the legendary Clay Graham (RIP), “when it comes to gospel music, and you need the job done, Shamar is the man...”

**Andraé Anthony, Soloist**

Baritone and Conductor Andraé J. Anthony is proud to serve as the director of music and worship arts at Broadway United Methodist Church in Indianapolis, IN. Upholding its mission to seek, welcome, and value all people Andraé, also known as AJ, provides unique opportunities for invigorating and transforming worship. He is ecstatic to be apart of the Reconciling Ministries fantastic music team.

**Tiffany Brown, Bassist**

**Reginald Brown, Drummer**
It’s better to have a partner than go it alone. Share the work, share the wealth. And if one falls down, the other helps, But if there’s no one to help, tough! Two in a bed warm each other. Alone, you shiver all night. By yourself you’re unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn’t easily snapped. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (The Message)

Psalm 133:1-3

Hymn “In the Midst of New Dimensions” Julian Rush

Opening Prayer
Creator God, we praise your name, for you are worthy of our praise. We are delighted to be here this day – in your presence and in the company of kindred souls. We come seeking rest for our hearts and spirits. Speak to our hearts, mother God, so we can hear you. We are ready. So be it!

Matthew 11:28-30

Anthem “You Are Welcome Here” Mark Burrows

Welcoming One Another

Ephesians 4:11-16

Preaching the Word

Rev. Sean Delmore

Hymn “Together We Serve” Dan Damon

Blessing One Another

Benediction and Sending Forth

Hymn “For Everyone Born” Shirley Erena Murray, Brian Mann
Greeting

Psalm 102:1-2

Opening Prayer
Like the Psalmist, we come into your presence, bent over in pain. The world tells us we are not enough. The church tells us we are not compatible. Our families have a difficult time making sense of our being. Our spirits feel torn and our souls feel tortured. Hear the lament of our heart this day and help us to remember that we belong to you. We are your beloved. We matter. Come Holy Spirit- fill us. AMEN

Solo "How Long O Lord" Barbara Woollett, Christopher Norton

Matthew 2:16-18

Bearing Witness in the Name of Justice

Hymn "Wounded World that Cries for Healing" Shirley Erena Murray, Hal H. Hopson

Prayers of Lament for the World

Jeremiah 31:1-9a

Solo "Glory" Andrea Anthony
John Legend and Common

Preaching the Word "Not Equality in All Things" Rev. David W. Meredith
Philemon 1:15-16; Galatians 3:23-28

Song "Prayer Chant (We Resist)" Mark A. Miller

Blessing and Benediction

Hymn "Freedom is Coming" trad. South African
Greetings

Hymn “Great is Thy Faithfulness” Thomas Chisholm/William Runyan

Opening Prayer
Blessed God, life giver of us all – we love you and are grateful for your love for us. You fill our hearts with joy that passes understanding. In joy we praise you this day. Calm our minds now, so we may hear, yet again – and embrace the blessed hope of eternal life. We are ready to feast on your word, on your promise and in your presence. AMEN

Malachi 4:1-3

Song “You are Mine” David Haas

Acts 3:1-10

Preaching the Word Starsky Wilson

Anthem “Everlasting God” Brenton Brown/Ken Riley

Prayers of the People
Response “Come and Fill Our Hearts” Jacques Berthier

Hymn “Heal Me Hands of Jesus” Michael Perry/Norman Warren

Invitation

Anointing with Oil

Prayer After Anointing

Blessing and Benediction

Hymn “We will Trust in the Lord” African American Spiritual
Feasting and Going Forth

Greeting

Hymn
“Gather Us In” Marty Haugen

Psalm 63
Response: “Tu Fidelidad [I Depend upon Your Faithfulness]” Miguel Cassina

Luke 14:15-24

Sermon T.C. Morrow

Hymn
“We Are Called” David Haas

Prayers of the People

Invitation to the Table

Confession and Pardon
Response: “As-salaamu lakum [Peace of God be with You]”
Arabic greeting/Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

Passing the Peace

Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving
Response: “Santo, Santo, Santo [Holy, Holy, Holy]” Traditional Argentine

Hymn
“Taste and See” James E. Moore Jr.

Receiving Communion

Prayer after Receiving

Commendation: Romans 12:9-21

Blessings and Sending Forth

Hymn
“For Everyone Born” Shierly Erena Murray, Brian Mann

1967: Good News is founded by Charles Keysor who claimed fundamentalists are “orthodox” Wesleyans.

1968: The Evangelical United Brethren and The Methodist Church unite to form The United Methodist Church.


1971: Rev. Gene Leggett, an openly gay clergyman, fights in Southwest Texas to retain his ordination credentials after coming out. In a vote of 144 to 117, the Annual Conference votes to suspend him.

1972: General Conference (GC) adopts a statement first drafted by Rev. Gene Leggett, in the new Social Principles affirming the sacred worth of homosexuals but, at the last hour GC adds: “the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.” Motive Magazine publishes two successive issues on gay and lesbian rights. These issues were the last two issues; Boston University cancels magazine because of their advocacy.

1973: UM Council on Youth Ministries announces petition for 1976 GC to challenge “incompatibility,” to affirm that homosexuals not be barred from ordination, and homosexuality is not synonymous with immorality.


1976: GC changes the wording of the Social Principles on gay unions to read, “We do not recognize a relationship between two persons of the same sex as constituting marriage” A “footnote” is approved "to restrict ordination of gays and lesbians.” It is not printed in the 1976 Book of Discipline but does appear in later versions of the Discipline. Funding is prohibited for any group promoting the acceptance of homosexuality. [Par. 906.12]. Petitions to oppose church membership, oppose studies on human sexuality and ban gays from church work with youth fail.

1977: Affirmation convened Paul Abels (gay clergyman in New York at Washington Square UMC), and 100 others, for an “Education Conference on Homosexuality and the UMC.” Diversity was applauded in the UMC.

1980: GC adopts a statement saying, “The United Methodist Church has moved away from prohibitions of specific acts, for such prohibitions can be endless. We affirm our trust in the covenant community and the process by which we ordain ministers.” Bishop Mel Wheatley refuses to sign the Episcopal address wherein Bishop W. McFerrin Stowe denounces homosexuality. Hazel Decker indirectly condemns homosexuality in the Laity Address. GC affirms marriage covenant as between man and woman. Petitions fail to remove homosexuals from appointments, prohibit homosexual ministers, prohibit homosexuals from church participation, or holding office in the UMC. Approved: churchwide study of human sexuality [published in 1983].

1982: The UM Judicial Council (JC) rules (Decision 513) nothing in church law prohibits ordination of homosexuals.

1983: Affirmation Council members Mark Bowman and Beth Richardson start Reconciling Congregation Project.

1984: GC adopts new prohibition: “Since the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching, self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be accepted as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve.” “Fidelity in marriage, celibacy in singleness” is added. Affirmation receives the first two Reconciling Congregations weeks after the end of GC: Washington Square UMC in New York City and Wesley UMC in Fresno, CA. St. Paul’s in Denver joins within the year.

1985: Manna for the Journey magazine published; later called Open Hands, after John Wesley’s statement.

1987: First Convocation of Reconciling Congregations in Chicago: 120 people, all 22 RCs, 80% lay, 20% clergy, from all jurisdictions and Canada. Heard a panel of Bishop Wheatley, Morris Floyd and Mary Gaddis, as well as seminary professors Tex Sample and Emilie Townes. Funding ban is invoked against GCSRW. Rev. Rose Mary Denman trial for being a ’self-avowed, practicing homosexual.’ Jury votes 12 to 1 to suspend her until the 1988 GC. Outcome is a success, for she didn’t lose her ordination. The prosecution also claims success, because the trial did not debate church policy.

1988: A change in the Social Principles statement is made with the addition of the italicized phrase and sentence: “Although we ... consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching, we affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.” The second study on homosexuality is approved by GC. The Committee to Study Homosexuality meet for four years.

1990: Second RCP convocation in San Francisco.


1992: Majority report of Committee to Study Homosexuality recommends GC remove language of “condemning homosexual practice and replace it with acknowledgement that the church ‘has been unable to arrive at a common mind’ on the issue.” GC votes 710-238 to retain ‘incompatible’ language. Advocacy groups are not allowed to speak during plenaries, 30 members of Affirmation march through the plenary singing. Confessing Church Movement launches.

1993: Re-Imagining Conference with 1000 women and men from diverse Christian traditions re-imagine Christianity outside of a male-only view. Lesbians witness on stage and Good News attacks with accusations of goddess worshipping.

1994: Report of the Study Committee on Homosexuality released as a study guide.


1996: GC bans same-gender union ceremonies. “Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches” is added to the Social Principles. Action to replace the “incompatibility” clause with statement that we are not of “common mind” fails. The ban on ordination continues and the Discipline defines ”self-avowed, practicing homosexual”
as one who “openly acknowledges to a bishop, district superintendent, district committee of ordained ministry, board of ordained ministry, or clergy session that the person is a practicing homosexual.” Fifteen bishops (11 active, 4 retired - out of 130) urge “gracious hospitality.”

1997: Reverend Jimmy Creech performs the marriage ceremony of two lesbian women believing that the prohibition on such unions is merely instructive because of its location in the Social Principles.

1998: GC votes a list of chargeable offenses in Paragraph 2702 of the Book of Discipline to include not being celibate in singleness, being unfaithful in heterosexual marriage; being a self-avowed practicing homosexual; conducting ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions or wedding ceremonies. Over 1300 clergy sign “In All Things Charity” (IATC) supporting same-gender commitment ceremonies. Jimmy Creech acquitted of conducting a same-gender ceremony. Greg Dell performs a ceremony. Judicial Council rules that a church or conference cannot identify itself with an “unofficial body” such as Reconciling Congregations.

1999: Judicial Council suspends Greg Dell from ministry and he becomes director of IATC. Jimmy Creech performs a same-gender wedding and loses credentials this time. Jeanne Barnett and Ellie Charlton celebrate their commitment before 95 elders of the Cal-Nevada Conference – now known as the Sacramento 68 – organized by Rev. Don Faso of St. Marks UMC. Bishop Melvin Talbert investigates but files no charges. First coalition formed: “AMAR” – Affirmation, MFSA, and RCP. Soulforce emerges and coins the phrase “spiritual violence” to describe how mainline denominations hurt LGBTQ people.

2000: Cleveland protests result in arrests of 185 persons, including 2 bishops. Prior to General Conference, Good News distributed videos to all delegates and encourages progressives to leave the UMC.

2002: Reconciling Congregations becomes Reconciling Ministries Network

2004: Good News caught on video distributing phones to African delegates. GC changes “although we do not condone the practice of homosexuality” to “The United Methodist Church does not condone...” GC retains incompatibility clause and adds a clause that UMs “will seek to live together in Christian community.” An “agree to disagree” motion from GBCS fails. Delegates uphold ban on “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” (674 to 262) and adds disciplinary charges to Paragraph 2702 for: “being a self-avowed practicing homosexual, conducting ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions, and performing same-sex wedding.” Another study on homosexuality starts.

2005: The Judicial Council issues Decision 1032 ruling that a Virginia United Methodist pastor had the right to refuse church membership to a gay man on the basis of the man’s sexual orientation.

2008: GC 2008 rejects majority report chaired by Frederick Brewington, New York, to add: “Faithful, thoughtful people who have grappled with this issue deeply disagree with one another; yet all seek a faithful witness.” The revision asked United Methodists “to refrain from judgment regarding homosexual persons and practices as the Spirit leads us to a new insight.” The minority report sought “clear, concise and faithful to biblical teaching” and claimed deleting “incompatible with Christian teaching” would confuse

2009: The Judicial Council overturns a ruling by Baltimore-Washington Conference Bishop John Schol regarding the conference’s adoption of a statement declaring that “a more authentic and truthful representation of The United Methodist Church” is that “we disagree” on gay and lesbian issues.

2012: Legislation on “human sexuality” is moved to the end of the GC. Time expires before the GC could debate further. Petition proposed from the floor to “agree to disagree” rejected.

2016: In the face of conflict and rumors of schism, GC asked the Council of Bishops to lead the church in a path forward. The Council of Bishops create the Commission on A Way Forward (COWF) with representatives from across the global church. The Council indicated that they might call a special session of the General Conference to hear and act on petitions resulting from the Commission’s work.

2017: Several Judicial Council rules that a person’s same-sex marital status is a public declaration containing both personal and objective elements, and, therefore, constitutes self-avowal under ¶ 304.3.

2018: Council of Bishop’s affirms the One Church Plan for the 2019 GC. Judicial Council allows petitions “in harmony” with the stated purpose of GC 2019, including petitions outside of those resulting from the COWF. In a reversal of an earlier decision, the Bishops decided to include petition language for all three plans. The Commission on the GC announces $200.00 to $300.00 registration fees for GC and requires name badges for all entering the session. Challenges based on open UMC meetings are pending.

Distilled by Ann Craig from collected info from the Foundry UMC Congregational Council, research by Drew Ph.D. Student Ashley Boggan: Human Sexuality and the United Methodist Church timeline 1964-2014, and memories of movement folks.
History - General Conference began out of the tradition of conferencing in the early Methodist Church. The first conference of Methodist preachers in the United States took place in Philadelphia in 1773. At that meeting, a system of regular conferences of the preachers was inaugurated. At the 1784 Christmas Conference, in Baltimore, Maryland, at Lovely Lane Chapel, participants planned the future of the Methodist movement in America and organized themselves, for the first time, as The Methodist Episcopal Church. At that conference, Methodists began a long history of taking a stand on social issues as they took a forceful stand against slavery.

As the church grew, it became impossible for all the preachers to meet each year. A decision was reached to divide the church into regions that met yearly (annual conferences) and to hold one “general conference” every four years, where all preachers were expected to attend. The first General Conference was held in 1792. As the Methodist church continued to grow, eventually annual conferences began electing delegates from among the clergy to attend from their area. Laity began participating in the General Conference in 1830. Women were excluded from participating in General Conference until 1904.

Today - About 860 elected General Conference delegates, comprised of one-half clergy and one-half laity, vote on petitions to change the Book of Discipline (the UM book of law, policies, and practices). Petitions may be sent in by general agencies, annual conferences, local churches, and individual United Methodists. Over 1,000 petitions are submitted to a typical General Conference, leading to the work being divided up and assigned to committees comprised of delegates. These legislative committees debate, amend, and vote on the petitions assigned to them.

Their votes become recommendations to the full body. Each plenary session is presided over by a bishop who uses Robert’s Rules of Order and the rules of the General Conference (voted on each General Conference) as guidance. The bishops are supported by the Secretary of the General Conference and a parliamentarian (rules monitor). At the plenary session, the full body of delegates may amend the various petitions that come before them, after which a vote is held. A simple majority is required to adopt a petition and have it become either church law as a part of the Book of Discipline or an official position/statement of the church in the Book of Resolutions. The only exceptions are petitions that amend the UMC’s Constitution. Constitutional changes require a vote of the general conference delegates, followed by ratification (a majority vote) of all annual conferences the following year.

2019 General Conference - The Council of Bishops has the right to call a special session of the General Conference specific to a certain topic. The call of the 2019 General Conference was updated on July 9, 2018 to say, “The purpose of this Special Session of the General Conference shall be limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based upon the recommendations of the Council of the Bishops.” The 32-member Commission was appointed by the Council of Bishops to assist the bishops in their charge to lead the church forward amid the impasse related to homosexuality. The Commission’s task included examining paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church.
As we gather this week, the 2019 General Conference looms large for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning, intersex, asexual and/or agender (LGBTQIA) people and our allies. At this specially “called” session of General Conference, to be held from February 23-26, 2019, at America’s Center Convention Complex in St. Louis, delegates from throughout our global connection will struggle over the Church’s integrity, as well as its unity if it allows for greater regional and cultural differences regarding the acceptance of homosexuality.

Background
At the 2016 General Conference (United Methodism’s highest decision-making body) in Portland, a majority of voting delegates asked the Council of Bishops to provide crucial leadership in finding “a way forward” out of the ongoing, contentious debates over homosexuality that have troubled the UMC for the past forty years.

As things stand right now, The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, our denomination’s official law book, includes a number of damaging prohibitions, all of which are grounded in the official stance that “the United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.” [Social Principles]

These negative prohibitions:
- Bars the ordination of “self-avowed, practicing homosexuals.”
- Bans pastors from presiding at and congregations from allowing same-gender weddings on church property.
- Forbids the spending of church funds in support of “homosexuality.”
- Defines marriage as between one man and one woman.

Though the current language of the Book of Discipline focuses specifically on same-gender loving people, in practice these negative prohibitions have been used to penalize, stigmatize, and discriminate against people of various sexual orientations and gender identities as well as those who love them and support their full inclusion.

In response to the request of the 2016 General Conference, the Council of Bishops created a thirty-two member body, the Commission on A Way Forward (CoWF), and charged it with exploring and bringing forth future options that would address the conflict over LGBTQ inclusion/exclusion and preserve church unity.

The Commission, which includes three openly gay/lesbian members, worked during 2017 and 2018, with explicit input from and consultation with the Council of Bishops. Together, the Commission and the Council of Bishop have recommended one approach, known as the One-Church Model, for consideration at the 2019 General Conference, while also, somewhat confusingly, putting forward two other models, the Connectional Church and the Traditionalist Models, as points of reference.

During the same time period, the Judicial Council (the “Supreme Court” of United Methodism) issued a ruling that people outside of the Council of Bishops and the Commission on A Way Forward could also submit legislative petitions to the 2019 General Conference as long as they are in harmony with “the call” for a Special Session of the General Conference issued by the Council of Bishops. The determination of whether additional petitions are in harmony with the CoB’s call will be made by the Office of the Secretary of the General Conference; any appeals to these initial decisions will be heard by the Committee on Reference immediately prior to the start of the 2019 Session.
As this document goes to print, the previously publicized release-date of the Commission’s Report has been pushed back for several weeks or months. And, the Council of Bishops has amended its original “call” to Special Session to read: “The purpose of this special session of the General Conference shall be limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based upon recommendations of the Council of Bishops.” [COB Letter, July 9, 2018]

The Three Models
The Commission on the Way Forward in consultation with the Council of Bishops developed three models for how to move forward as a denomination. Strong majorities of both the Commission and the Council of Bishops have recommended the One Church Plan, with the other two models garnering a much smaller amount of support.

• One Church Plan - This model would allow United Methodists in different places to make different decisions regarding ministry with or by LGBTQ persons rather than maintaining a single standard that operates throughout the worldwide church. This plan would remove restrictive language from the Book of Discipline and give conferences, churches, and pastors the flexibility to “uniquely reach their missional context in relation to human sexuality without changing the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church.” United Methodists in Central Conferences in Africa, Asia and Europe would retain the authority to adapt the Book of Discipline and could continue to include their traditional language and values. This plan would also protect the rights of United Methodists whose theological convictions will not allow them to perform same-sex weddings or ordain LGBTQ people.

• Connectional Conference Plan - This plan would create three connectional conferences based on theology or perspective, each having clearly defined values (accountability, contextualization and justice). The three connectional conferences would function throughout the worldwide church, and the five existing U.S. jurisdictions would be abolished. This will require a change to the United Methodist constitution.

• Traditionalist Plan - This plan would affirm the current language about homosexuality in the Book of Discipline and seek to strengthen enforcement for violations of church law.

Our current understanding is that the report will include the legislative petitions for action by delegates for all three plans, along with their recommendation of the One Church Plan, also a change from the previously announced plan where the Connectional Conference Plan and the Traditionalist Plan were provided for historical information only.

Love Your Neighbor Coalition (LYNC)
Background on General Conference 2019
LYNC is a coalition of United Methodists committed to the embodiment of God’s love and justice within and through the people and mission of The United Methodist Church. The core of our faith is found in Jesus’ response to the question “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” – to “love God with all our heart, soul (being) and mind” and to “love neighbor as one’s self” [Matthew 22:36-40 and Leviticus 19:18]. These hold ancient “law and prophets” together with our contemporary Book of Discipline, Social Principles, and Book of Resolutions. Our mission is to assure that The United Methodist Church is fully open to the presence, love and grace of God for all people.
LYNC released a statement early in the process encouraging the CoWF to put forward to the Bishops a recommendation that removes the harmful language. Such a recommendation from the Commission would: allow LGBTQIA people to respond to their calls to ministry, allow ministers to marry those deemed ready for marriage, and give the church room to develop a vision for the future that includes LGBTQIA people, who have always been at the center of the church, as full and equal participants in the conversation. None of the current plans meets this clean goal of simply removing the harmful language. While disappointing, this is not unexpected.

**Legislative Strategy**
After much discernment and lengthy discussions, LYNC decided not to submit petitions in advance of the 2019 General Conference. This critical decision was driven by a number of crucial factors:

1. First, rather than the usual ten days, delegates to the 2019 General Conference will have only three days to review and approve any legislation. Given this very short timeline and the conflictual nature of the legislative process, we anticipate that delegates will prioritize the Commission’s Report as their primary action item.
2. While far from perfect, we believe that the One Church Plan offers our best opportunity to affect positive change through legislative strategy. We intend to lead a formidable floor strategy aimed at defeating any harmful language and making amendments that perfect or improve the provisions of the One Church Plan.
3. LYNC supports its partner organizations efforts to submit their own legislation. More specifically, the United Methodist Queer Clergy Caucus (UMQCC) has decided to submit its own petition which calls for the removal of the harmful language without additional language being added.

We believe that in order to pass any of the positive changes included in the One Church Plan, that LYNC will need to provide leadership in organizing the largest possible coalition of delegates, who will support the deletion of the negative prohibitions against “homosexuality” in order to preserve the unity of the Church.

Even at this early stage of organizing around the legislative process, LYNC anticipates strong opposition from conservative church leaders and organization, including the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA), Good News Movement, the Institute of Religion and Democracy (IRD), and others. These groups have already announced support for the Traditionalist Model and have brought enormous pressure to bear on the Council on Bishops, including threats to derail the 2019 General Conference by challenging the constitutionality of the Commission’s Report.

In summary, LYNC’s legislative strategy for General Conference is to work with other groups in the Church:

1. To center the well-being of LGBTQIA United Methodists, both lay and clergy, in whatever legislative strategies are pursued.
2. To support and perfect the One Church Plan, including pursuing the removal of any harmful or discriminatory language or provisions.
3. To defeat the Traditionalist or any other plan that would worsen discrimination and exclusions.
4. To continue to explore, in light of the Church’s continued failures to create a more just and inclusive denomination, other structural options for promoting full inclusion and the flourishing of LGBTQIA people and their allies.
The Witness at General Conference 2019
As in previous years, LYNC will support not only a legislative strategy but other ministries of presence as well. Though this witness will be complicated by the decision to charge a hefty registration fee for those attending the 2019 Special Session as “observers,” we still need volunteers who are willing to engage lovingly and creatively with delegates around the periphery of the legislative committee and full plenary sessions.

Our early plans for General Conference for 2019 are to be present in our rainbow stoles, extend radical hospitality, welcome prayers from those around the connection who cannot be present, and extend to the church the grace that we are not met with by many in the church.

We were made for such a time as this. Now is our time to build critical connections. We must forge stronger relationships so that in 2019 we can advocate in unity for legislation that ends the harm to LGBTQIA United Methodists and envisions a Church that welcomes and celebrates all.

"The Academy for Spiritual Formation gave me the space, the time, the support, and the model I needed to learn again that God loves me deeply. This is my true story, and The Academy helped me discover it. What’s yours?"

— Kristen Vincent, author of A Bead and a Prayer: A Beginner’s Guide to Protestant Prayer Beads (Upper Room Books, 2013) and graduate of Academy "34

To discover your story and to learn more about The Academy, visit: academy.upperroom.org
GENERAL CONFERENCE – Our Charge

Nothing about us without us – a call to conference

For half a century the United Methodist Church has debated the status and fate of LGBTQI people as an “issue,” a problem to be solved. But we are people, not problems, children of God, and the UMC will not right itself until it talks with us instead of about us.

Only a tiny handful of LGBTQI people have ever been elected as General Conference delegates; little wonder, when the Book of Discipline labels us as “incompatible with Christian teaching” and queer clergy have to risk prosecution simply to exist, let alone run for GC. The Commission on the Way Forward – whose outcome represents anything but a just way forward – had only a token LGBTQI presence, all of it from the privileged white, cis-gender, U.S. citizen segment of queer communities.

As followers of Jesus, we believe in the extravagant abundance of God’s grace and believe that justice for LGBTQI people is possible within the United Methodist Church. But ends are predetermined in means, and justice will not come to the UMC until LGBTQI people are recognized by church leaders as human beings with whom the future as a church must be forged together.

Whenever he had a choice, Jesus chose relationships over rules, and people over policies. “The Sabbath was made for humankind and not humankind for the Sabbath.” We must thus prioritize the church as God’s people and not the church as an institution. Neither the unity nor the schism of the church is a proper goal in our effort to be faithful to Jesus’s call, but rather a fearless and honest effort to follow the Gospel wherever that may lead us.

All of this is why we must be in St. Louis in February. We need to bring the witness of God’s queer church in exile into the halls of institutional power and we need to make them see us, talk with us, acknowledge us as human, and yes, “holy conference” with us. For there will be nothing holy about the General Conference if the conversation is only about us.

Authored by Dr. Dorothee Benz.
The importance of one-on-one conversations and encouraging dialog in our congregations and small groups, such as Sunday School classes, UMW Circles and youth groups, has always been a cornerstone of our work as Reconciling United Methodists, and this is still true.

Here are some resources you could consider as you seek to initiate such conversations and dialog in your area.

1. The Florida Conference has created a resource called *Point of View* – a 3-evening, or one-day program for helping groups and congregations engage in effective dialog across different perspectives. More details and the way to get access to the materials are on this page [https://www.flumc.org/a-way-forward](https://www.flumc.org/a-way-forward).

2. The United Methodist Association of Retired Clergy (UMARC) has created a three-session study - details are here [https://www.umarc.org/](https://www.umarc.org/). The website also has a Resources page with additional support documentation.


The toolkit includes some great tools for engaging individuals and groups in dialog and conversation, including:
Graceful Engagement pages 12-14
One-to-One Visits pages 15-20

**General rules to consider:**
1. Ask curious, honest, open-ended questions.
2. Explore areas of common experience or belief.
3. Explore ways in which your faith has developed and changed over time.

*Authored by Helen Ryde.*
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Mark Bowman - Event Planner  
Grace Cox-Johnson - Worship and Music Leader

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Gathering Facilitators  
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Rev. Jarell Wilson

**Affirmation National Council**  
Thursday Evening Reception

**History Celebration Planning Team**  
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Ben Roe  
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Rev. Martha E. Vink  
Rev. Vicki Woods

**Banquet Speakers**  
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Beth Richardson  
Jarell Wilson  
Judy Cayot  
Dr. Randall Miller  
Rev. Dr. Izzy Alvaran  
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Missouri Conference RUMs

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**Love Your Neighbor Coalition**  
partner organizations and Leadership Team led by co-conveners Cyndi Kent and Rev. Frank Wulf.

**AND** thank you to the anonymous / behind-the-scenes / on-the-spot volunteers and the persons whose names we know and inadvertently omitted here. Thank you for being part of the For Everyone Born village!
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UMOC
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## WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>United Methodists Queer Clergy Caucus (UMQCC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:00-9:00 p.m.</td>
<td><em>For Everyone Born</em> Registration open</td>
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</tbody>
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## THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.</td>
<td><em>For Everyone Born</em> Registration open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Parent’s Reconciling Group Workshop (PRN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>United Methodists for Transgender Inclusion (UMATI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00-4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>LYNC Strategy Meeting</td>
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*For Everyone Born officially begins!*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Gathering Singing</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Opening Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Sweets for the Sweet Reception (Affirmation hosts)</td>
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## FRIDAY, JULY 27, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00-8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 a.m. &amp; 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Gathering Singing &amp; Worship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Introduction to General Conference 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Conversations on General Conference 2019 (General Conference delegates meet)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00-3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Workshops Session 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:45-5:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Workshops Session 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Gathering Singing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>“Ain’t I a Christian, Too?” address by Rev. Dr. Jay Williams</td>
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## SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00-8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:15 a.m. &amp; 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Gathering Singing &amp; Worship</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Jurisdictional Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15 a.m.</td>
<td>“Disruptive Christian Ethics of Embodiment” address by Rev. Dr. Traci C. West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Conversations with Bishop Karen Oliveto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Workshops Session 3 (General Conference delegates meet)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Gathering for Banquet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Celebrating our History</td>
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## SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2018

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00-8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Gathering Singing</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Come to St. Louis in February 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>Closing Worship address by T.C. Morrow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>