



Called Out eNews -- March 2010

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National Gathering Registration Now Open!

Registration is now open for the [2010 National Gathering](#) of the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns to be held in San Diego, CA, July 14-17, 2010. Early-bird registration is \$99 a person through March 31st. If you [register early](#), you will also receive a one-day San Diego Trolley pass.

The UCC
Coalition
for LGBT
Concerns



Among the presenters will be UCC President and General Minister, Geoffrey Black. Kathy Church, UCC Coalition President, said, "Coalition is very proud of our relationship with the denomination, and we are pleased that he has committed to be with us in San Diego to continue our collaboration on social justice ministry."

God's Extravagant Welcome

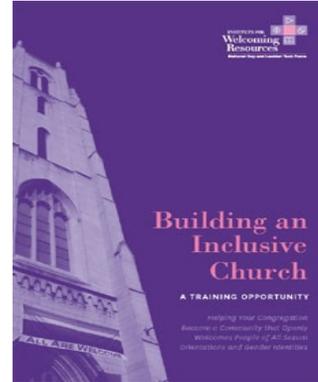
At the National Gathering, you will learn how to incorporate Open and Affirming (ONA) into your local church. Come to connect with other congregations and share ideas.

This year's theme will be :"**Any Body, Everybody, Christ's Body,**" following-up on the [Accessible to All resolution](#) passed by the 25th General Synod in Atlanta, GA, calling on UCC congregations and instrumentalities to be physically, spiritually, and emotionally open and affirming to people with disabilities. These issues hope to be addressed at the National Gathering this year, specifically in the wider context of living out God's extravagant welcome to all.

There will also be important sessions about transgender issues as the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns continues its work to encourage the [full inclusion of transgender people within the UCC](#). In order more fully to live God's extravagant welcome, the Coalition expands its new criteria for new ONA Statements to include gender identity and gender expression, effective National Gathering, July 14, 2010.

Open and Affirming (ONA) Training—“Building an Inclusive Church”—Hayward, CA

On April 9-11, 2010, there will be an [open and affirming \(ONA\) training](#) at Eden UCC in Hayward, CA. For churches that are in the process of becoming ONA or for churches that are simply thinking about the process, this training provides you and your congregation with the resources. The training will guide you through the process of becoming a community and a congregation that “openly welcomes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.” This is an ecumenical training, and in addition to the UCC participants, may also include participants from the Reconciling Ministries Network of the United Methodist Church, Lutherans Concerned, and More Light Presbyterians. All are welcome, even if you or your church is not a member of these churches or organizations. Look forward to an intense, spiritually enriching, and transformational weekend!



Building an Inclusive Church is for lay leaders, clergy, denominational leaders, and members and leaders in denominational LGBT groups and organizations.

The training includes:

- faith-based community organizing skills training,
- sound biblical and theological education,
- meaningful worship,
- discussion of bisexuality and transgender issues, and
- opportunities for faithful thinking and effective planning related to your context

Why is this important?

- Every person's sexual orientation or gender identity deserves to be honored as a beloved child of God.
- Every person, no matter who they are, deserves to be welcomed and celebrated at Christ's table. Yet, far too often our churches are neither welcoming nor honoring of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

Building an Inclusive Church offers powerful tools to help the Church be the Church it is called to be — just, loving, and extravagantly welcoming.

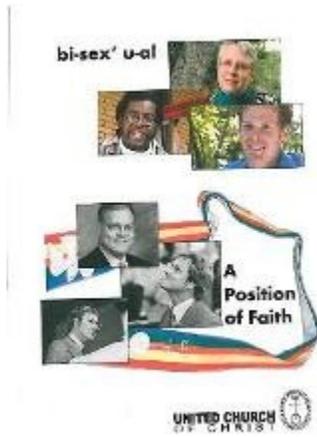
Registration deadline is March 26. For more information and to register go to:

- [Information Packet \(pdf\)](#)
- [Register & Pay Online](#)
- [Register & Pay by Mail](#)

For the current schedule of all ecumenical trainings, click [here](#).

New LGBT Resources Available!

A Position of Faith and Bi-sex' u-al, two videos about sexual orientation, have been combined onto one DVD.



bi-sex' u-al

This video was created to encourage dialogue about bisexual orientation and identification. This video will not answer all questions about bisexuality. It is an introduction to three individuals through their own stories of faith and sexuality. We hope it will inspire you to think deeply about these stories, and your own story, in the light of faith.

A Position of Faith

On June 25, 1972, William (Bill) R. Johnson became the first openly gay person to be ordained to the Christian ministry. This video tells the story of this landmark event and the process that made it possible. The story is poignant and inspirational, and includes a letter from Bill Johnson's mother, interviews with Bill, and interviews with young people and church leaders (clergy and lay)

who either supported or opposed Bill's candidacy.

The Discussion Guide for both videos is available [here](#).

Order the DVD Now

Call Me Malcolm is now available on Netflix!

Call Me Malcolm is a feature-length documentary about Malcolm, a transgender man and his journey with faith, love and gender identity. Study materials and ordering and other information are available on the web at www.CallMeMalcolm.com or through the [Health and Wholeness Advocacy Office](#).

Marriage is Celebrated in Washington D.C. and Honored in Maryland

Marriage Equality in the Nation's Capitol

In Washington, D.C., Mayor Adrian Fenty signed into law the [Religious Freedom & Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act of 2009](#), and marriage licenses became available on March 3. This amendment act would allow same-sex couples to marry in the city itself. With this legislation, clergy and religious organizations would be ensured that they are not required to perform same-sex marriages or accommodate same-sex couples in their organization.

Same-sex Marriages Recognized in Maryland



Douglas F. Gansler, the Maryland Attorney General, declared that the state can recognize out-of-jurisdiction same-sex

marriages. "There is no law in Maryland that says we don't recognize out-of-state marriages between same-sex couples,"

Gansler said. "Based on the law and the state of the law in Maryland and the Constitution of the United States, this is what the law is." Since Washington, D.C. is now accepting marriage licenses from same-sex couples, it is very practical that Maryland recognizes same-sex marriages from other jurisdictions.

Although Maryland does not issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, the state is able to provide marriage rights and benefits to same-sex couples married outside of Maryland. State agencies will be required to offer all the benefits that heterosexual couples receive to married same-sex couples.

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