

News

United Church of Christ launches new powerful message



Isn't It Time For Religion With Relevance?

[The Language of God](#) from [United Church of Christ](#) on [Vimeo](#).

[Religious Leaders speak out against exportation of homophobia](#)

Washington, DC, April 26, 2010. Religious leaders held a powerful vigil at National City Christian Church to speak out against the anti-homosexual bill in Uganda and the exportation of homophobia in the name of religion. [Click here for the video](#).

[President Obama issues presidential order on patient visitation](#)

On April 15, President Obama issued an executive order requiring hospitals that receive Medicare and Medicaid to allow patients to designate visitors and respect durable power of attorney directives.

General Minister and President the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, the Rev. Michael Schuenemeyer, executive in the UCC's Office for Health and Wholeness Advocacy, and Sandy Sorenson, director of the UCC's Washington D.C. Office, issued a statement following President Obama's order. "This directive opens the hospital visitation doors for lesbian, gay, bisexual and

transgender people so that they may have their loved ones present with them and involved, especially at life's most profound and critical moments. We stand in support of the President's courageous and compassionate decision affirming the rights and dignity of all Americans." To read the full statement, click [here](#).

Events

The UCC
Coalition
for LGBT
Concerns



God's Extravagant Welcome

National Gathering of the Coalition--July 14-17, 2010

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. Registration is just \$119 per person.

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.

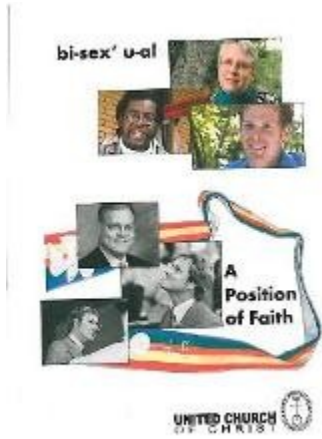
Old Lesbians Organizing for Change's National Gathering--July 14-18, 2010



This event is for lesbians 60 and over and their partners (of any age). It will be held at the Skyline Hotel in Cleveland, Ohio. The theme this year is "Sharpening the Radical Edge."

The event will also include workshops, the movie, "Hannah Free", and a Cleveland cabaret of local entertainment. Saturday night frolics will include our traditional Dinner-Dance plus an announcement of the first recipient of the Del Martin Old Lesbian Pride Award.

To register for this event, you can [print and mail PDF of Registration Packet here](#). More information about the event is also available at the [OLOC website](#).



Bi-sex'u-al/A Position of Faith

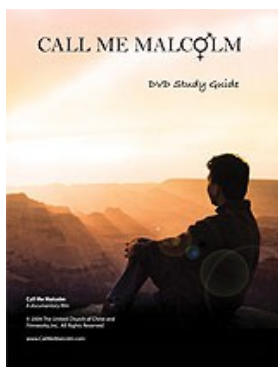
Bi-sex'u-al and *A Position of Faith*, two videos about sexual orientation, have been combined onto one DVD. *Bi-sex' u-al* was created to encourage dialogue about bisexual orientation and identification. This video will not answer all questions about bisexuality.

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 tells the story of William (Bill) R. Johnson, as he became the first openly gay person in history to be ordained to the Christian ministry. The story is poignant and inspirational and includes a letter from Bill Johnson's mother, interviews with Bill, young people, and church leaders (clergy and lay), who either supported or opposed Bill's candidacy.

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

[Order the DVD Now](#)



Call Me Malcolm

[Put Call Me Malcolm in your Netflix cue!](#)

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](#).



Believe OUTLOUD *Believe Out Loud* is a collection of clergy and lay leaders, LGBT activists and concerned individuals, working together to help the Protestant community become fully inclusive of all people, regardless of sexual orientation

or gender identity.

Using community organizing and social marketing strategies, they support individuals and churches in their efforts toward LGBT inclusion. A partnership of the country's leading LGBT advocacy groups, both religious and secular, *Believe Out Loud* seeks to accelerate the existing Christian movement toward LGBT inclusion and significantly increase the number of local churches and denominations that are fully inclusive of LGBT individuals, both in practice and policy. In doing so, they seek to create a widespread Christian movement for LGBT equality in the church and in broader society.

In Action

Help Pass ENDA!

ENDA is the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that protects all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. House Speaker Pelosi reports that ENDA may be moving toward a vote on the House floor soon after the committee takes action on the bill.

Make sure one of the first things they hear about is the importance of an Employment Non-Discrimination Act that includes sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. Here are three things you can do:

1. Take Action

Take action through the JPANet, the UCC's Justice Peace Action Network: [Stand up against discrimination!](#) and use the United ENDA [toolkit](#) to support this important legislation.

2. In DC, make their phones ring!

United ENDA is a coalition of hundreds of organizations, including the UCC Office for LGBT Concerns, working to get an ENDA that includes gender identity and expression. [United ENDA](#) is tracking the meetings to learn where this new Congress stands. Click [here](#) to go fill out the Lobby Report Form available from United ENDA. It's the best way to let us know how your meeting went and whether your Representative and Senators expressed support.

Call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121 and have them connect you to your Representative (based on your zip code). Tell them: "I am a constituent, a person of faith and I would like you to please tell Representative [your representative's name] that I strongly support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that would ban discrimination against all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people."

Then, call back and leave messages with your two Senators too!

3. At home, set up a visit!

Request an in-person meeting for you and other community members with your two Senators and your Representative (or their staffs) in their home district offices. You can call the district offices to request these meetings, but they often want you to fax a meeting request. To find contact info for district offices, go to www.senate.gov and www.house.gov.

4. Let [United ENDA](#) know about your meeting!



Did You Know?

Called Out is on Facebook

Join the [Called Out!](#) Facebook fan page today, where you can stay up-to-date on what is going on in the LGBT community and in the [Health and Wholeness Advocacy Office](#).