



OutReach
LGBT Community Center
600 Williamson St., Ste P-1
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www.lgbtOutReach.org

Interfaith Dialog on Sexuality

Providing churches an opportunity to interface with the LGBTQ community

Dear Welcoming Congregation,

For religious organizations striving to include the LGBTQ community, the critical task is to reach out and make connections with people. Inclusive communities of faith are steadily being integrated into mainstream society, and the presence of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people in churches across the state and country continues to rise.

However, the historical distrust between the gay and religious communities will not be easily overcome. A concerted effort in outreach must be made. Many people in our community are unaware that inclusive congregations exist, or where they may be located. In an effort to continue to solidify our voice, the *Interfaith Dialog on Sexuality* conference was created. The event is a pertinent occasion for congregations of all faiths to publicly affirm their commitment to inclusive membership, and to strengthen the relations between affirming congregations in the Madison-area.

Our mission at Outreach LGBT Center is to create a community where the presence and contributions of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender people are welcomed and celebrated. We strive to meet the spiritual needs of those in our community, and are partnering with UW-Madison, and a number of welcoming congregations to present this conference. The event is intended to:

- Provide welcoming and progressive churches an opportunity to develop and build relationships that facilitate cooperation
- Strengthen the working relationship between OutReach LGBT Center, UW-Madison, and Madison-area religious organizations
- Provide an opportunity for those in the LGBT and religious communities to interface and experience mutual education

We would like to partner with you to work towards these goals. Attached is promotional material for the conference; please consider supporting our efforts by distributing this info to your congregations, and/or becoming a sponsor for this event.

CONFERENCE CONTENT

The conference features keynote speaker Scott Anderson – the first openly gay man to be ordained as a minister since the Presbyterian Church voted to be an affirming organization. Rev. Anderson has been at the head of the fight for justice within religious institutions, and will share some of his fascinating story.

A panel of speakers from a variety of faiths will discuss strategies and share stories about the process in transforming a congregation into an open and affirming space. The conference will include a





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breakout session for participants to share ideas and reflections, as well as an 'Open Forum' for religious organizations to interact with participants through hosting a table.

Snacks and beverages will be served throughout the conference. In addition, the UW-Madison School of Social Work is offering 3.5 Continuing Education Hours for Social Workers and other helping professionals.

Thank you and blessings,

D. Eric Schechter
MSW Student Intern

Special thanks to our sponsors: United Methodist Church, First Congregational UCC, Madison Mennonite Church, First Unitarian Society, First Baptist Church, Lakeview Lutheran, Luther Memorial Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, Lake Edge Lutheran, Orchard Ridge UCC, St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, Zion Lutheran, New Harvest Foundation, UW LGBT Center, and UW-Madison School of Social Work.

Register online at: lgbtoutreach.org, through email at: interfaith@lgbtoutreach.org, or at the event. Registration is \$10 (sliding scale fee available)



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