



Hearts on Fire

Continuing the Journey

A one-day conference sponsored by the Baltimore-Washington Area Reconciling Methodists (**B-WARM**)

To share and explore

A Discipleship Journey Toward Becoming a Reconciling People

Saturday
October 21, 2006
8 am – 5 pm

(with an after party
from 5 – 7 pm)

**At the Baltimore-
Washington UMC
Conference
Center**

7178 Columbia
Gateway Drive,
Columbia, Maryland

Schedule at a Glance:

8:00 – 9:00 am	Registration, Coffee/Tea/Bagels
9:00 – 10:30 am	Plenary — Opening Worship and Keynote Speaker Jimmy Creech
10:30 – 10:45 am	Break
10:45 – Noon	Workshop I
Noon – 1:30	Lunch
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Workshop II
2:30 – 2:45 pm	Break
2:45 – 3:45 pm	Workshop III
3:45 – 4:00 pm	Break
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Closing Worship
5:00 – 7:00 pm	After Party

B-WARM is delighted to welcome **Jimmy Creech** as our keynote speaker for *Hearts on Fire: Continuing the Journey*. A former ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, Creech twice faced charges within the UMC for performing same-sex civil unions and ultimately had his credentials withdrawn. He has been active in numerous LGBT rights organizations.

Worship: Our day together will both begin and end with worship. The closing worship will include communion, with **Bishop John Schol** officiating.

Opportunities to Network with Each Other: The 1½ hour lunch break will provide time to meet other attendees and share reactions to morning sessions. All who can stay are invited to a two-hour **after party** — an opportunity to relax, enjoy a variety of light refreshments, and share experiences. (A \$10 additional fee for the after party covers food and incidental expenses.)

Workshops:

Multiple workshops will be offered in each of the three workshop time slots. When you register, please check your top three choices; your feedback will help determine time slots, room allocations, and which, if any workshops are repeated.

Planned workshops include:

Homosexuality & the Bible — Are you stumped when people use scripture to exclude glbt folks? Here is help with understanding the scriptures often used to exclude lgbt persons. This session will be led by Rev. Dr. **Youtha Hardman-Cromwell**, a professor at Wesley Seminary and former member of the Reconciling Ministries Network Board.

Someone I Love Is Gay — What happens when a family member comes out to their loved ones? How do you respond if a family member or close friend comes out to you? How do you continue to show God's love to that person? These and other questions will be addressed by guest presenters in this workshop. Family members (one straight — one gay) will talk about how they reacted and moved to greater understanding along the journey. This session will be facilitated by Rev. Dr. **Mary Kraus**, pastor of Dumbarton United Methodist Church and a former Dean of the Baltimore-Washington Annual Conference Cabinet.

Effective Allies Weren't Born That Way — An "ally" is someone who stands for others' safety and well-being and their full participation in the life of the community. What moves a straight person to become an ally of the gay community? A gay/lesbian person to become an ally of transgender people? In this interactive session led by Ann Thompson Cook, we'll consider what allies need to know, how we can empower one another to be effective allies, and how we can swell the ranks of allies. Speaking from 25 years'

experience as an educator and author, **Ann Thompson Cook** brings fresh perspective to core questions in the movement for glbt equality, including the essential role of allies and the intersection of religion, sexuality, and gender. Her popular booklets *And God Loves Each One*, *Made in God's Image*, and *Dios nos ama por igual* are distributed internationally.

Transcending Gender — Is the world of gender simply male and female? Why aren't all men macho and women ultra feminine? Are sex and gender the same thing? What struggles do people encounter when they don't feel at home with their gender roles or their bodies? Sally Sparks will lead the group in exploring these and other questions about gender and the worlds between and across male and female and masculine and feminine, with a special focus on those who move between them — transgender people. Transgender people are among the most misunderstood and persecuted people in our society today. This presentation will help you gain understanding not only of transgender people, but also of the struggles that many of us feel when we don't fit neatly into the little boxes that our culture often demands. **Sally Sparks** is an engineer by training and a member of Dumbarton UMC. She has been providing training on gender diversity to academia, churches, and professional organizations for 6 years.

Evangelism: Reaching Out to Young Adults — How often have you thought, "Our congregation welcomes *everyone*, but why haven't we seen more visitors?" Maybe you've overheard this at a meeting: "Well, we put a sign out that says we're Reconciling, what more can we do?" And then there's the dilemma we all want to solve: "Young people say that church isn't relevant. We're talking about relevant issues, but we don't have any young people!" Join us in this session led by Chett Pritchett for some time to talk about what it really means to be invitational. How do you reach out to

lgbt communities? What about young adults of a variety of sexual orientations and gender identities? How can we live into a fuller definition of what it means to be reconciling? **Chett Pritchett** is convener of MoSAIC: Methodist Students for an All-Inclusive Church, an extension ministry of the Reconciling Ministries Network. He is a member of Dumbarton UMC and the seminary intern at the Wesley Foundation at the University of Maryland-College Park.

Telling Our Stories: Experiences Being Gay, Ex-Gay, Ex-Ex-Gay — This moderated panel presentation will allow participants to hear directly the life and faith experiences of individuals who are gay, ex-gay, and ex-ex-gay. Panelists will each share their own stories, and then there will be time for questions and discussion. **Ella Curry**, the panel moderator, is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School and an HIV/AIDS Clinical Nurse Specialist who has worked in AIDS education for many years. She is a member of the B-W Conference Bishop's LGBT Dialogue Team and of Capitol Hill United Methodist Church.

How to Become a Reconciling Congregation — There's no single "right path" to becoming a Reconciling congregation (a congregation that develops a statement that includes an explicit welcome of lgbt persons and becomes part of the Reconciling Ministries Network). Even considering the question can raise tensions, yet the process also can be a strengthening one for a congregation. In this session a panel will share three very different stories of how their congregations became Reconciling or are currently exploring that possibility.

Communicating with Children & Teens — What do we tell children and teens about sexual orientation and gender identity? How do we communicate with them about "Reconciling" issues being discussed within our churches? **Melany Burrill**, workshop leader, is a graduate of Wesley Seminary and served

as Director of Christian Education in a Northern Virginia congregation for 16 years. She provided leadership for District and Conference youth programs and is also a long-time Sunday School teacher. Melany is a certified sexuality educator and has been leading comprehensive sexuality education workshops in churches for youth and their parents for over 20 years. She has also led youth programs at a number of Reconciling Ministries Network Convocations.

Race, Culture & Homosexuality — How can we talk about becoming a "Reconciling People" when it remains so difficult to discuss lgbt issues across racial and cultural divides? What if our own cultural heritage (including the religious culture of our youth) is unaccepting of lgbt persons? How do race and culture affect the dialogue on lgbt issues within the United Methodist Church? Within our churches? In the ways our churches do or don't relate to congregations of different races or cultures? Our panelists (being confirmed as this goes to press) will lead us in an exploration of ways to open the dialogue across racial and cultural divides.

But My Parents (Church) Are So Conservative — When young people in conservative families discover their gay identity, the response from their family and church is often: "You are not gay . . . That is simply a lie that Satan has suggested! . . . You need to 'change!'" After years of unsuccessful change efforts, some reject God, while others try suicide. This session will present various testimonies, including a video by Mary Lou Wallner, whose daughter committed suicide when she couldn't accept her daughter's lesbian identity. The Wallners now travel the U.S. to let everyone know of God's love for glbt people. This session is designed specifically to provide additional information to those who think seeking a change in identity provides "THE ANSWER." It will also equip individuals to respond to glbt folks around us who are seeking acceptance and assurance of God's love.

Getting There:

The Baltimore-Washington UMC Conference Center is in Columbia, Maryland, at 7178 Columbia Gateway Drive. From I-95, take MD-175 toward Columbia. Take the Columbia Gateway Drive ramp, and then take a slight left onto Columbia Gateway Drive followed by a right to stay on Columbia Gateway. For more detailed directions, see Mapquest.com.

Lodging:

No lodging has been arranged by B-WARM, but if you are coming from a distance, you may want to consider one of the following hotels, all of which are within 3 miles of the Conference Center. The prices listed were as of the time this promotion went to press in late August and should be confirmed.

- Red Roof Inn
8000 Washington Blvd (US1), Jessup, MD 20794
410-796-0380
\$83.99 + tax
- Super 8 Motel
8094 Washington Blvd., Jessup, MD 20794 410-796-0400
\$80.00 + tax
- Fairfield Inn
7300 Crestmount Rd.. Jessup, MD 20794 410-799-1500
\$104.00 + tax
- Courtyard - Columbia
8910 Stanford Blvd., Columbia, MD 21045-5805
410-290-0002
\$119.00 + tax
- Holiday Inn-Columbia-Jessup
7900 Washington Blvd., Jessup, MD 20794 410-799-7500
\$122.55 + tax

To register, please fill out all sections of this form and return it with your check no later than **October 7** to:
Attn: B-WARM, Capitol Hill United Methodist Church,
421 Seward Square SE, Washington, DC 20003.
Register early! Space is limited.

Name _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Fees:

- ☐ \$30 — Registration for conference (includes lunch)
- ☐ \$10 additional fee for After Party (from 5 – 7 pm)
_____ Optional additional contribution to B-WARM
expenses and scholarships for this event

Total enclosed: _____ (Please make your check payable to **Capitol Hill UMC** and be sure to write **B-WARM** on the notation line.)

Lunch:

Please indicate your sandwich or salad choice for your box lunch (lunches will include one bottled water or soda):

- ☐ Turkey Sandwich
- ☐ Roast Beef Sandwich
- ☐ Vegetarian
- ☐ Chef Salad
- ☐ Chicken Caesar Salad

Workshops:

Please also check the **three** workshops that most interest you. Unlike your lunch choice, you will not be held to these workshops, but your selection will help B-WARM schedule sessions and allocate rooms.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Homosexuality & the Bible | <input type="checkbox"/> How to Become a Reconciling Congregation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Someone I Love Is Gay | <input type="checkbox"/> Communicating with Children & Teens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Effective Allies Weren't Born That Way | <input type="checkbox"/> Race, Culture & Homosexuality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transcending Gender | <input type="checkbox"/> But My Parents (Church) Are So Conservative |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism: Reaching Out to Young Adults | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telling Our Stories: Experiences Being Gay, Ex-Gay, Ex-Ex-Gay | |