

What's Happening?

As we struggle with the future of The United Methodist Church, WPA Reconciling Ministries is striving to provide information about the various issues we are facing as a denomination.

We want to boldly address the theological and biblical perspectives surrounding *A Way Forward* for our church. It is time to openly discuss our questions.

During the keynote speech and the seminars, our presenters will be using inclusive language, up-to-date facts, and strong theological perspectives regarding issues related to human sexuality. Our speakers hold credentials that are grounded in robust theological understandings and are recognized around the country as specialists in their fields of expertise. They will challenge us to consider new ideas and will offer a broad-based understanding of the Gospel.

For many, the considerations before the church are a matter of justice. What is the just thing to do for all the children of God? We will look at the hot-button issues of ordination, marriage and full participation in the life of the church.



Our Vision

A United Methodist Church which practices radical hospitality toward, is fully inclusive of, and offers accepting supportive ministries for and with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons and those who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Who Should Come?

This seminar is open to all persons who want to learn how the issues related to human sexuality are affecting the future of our church. Although this event will be an opportunity to openly learn and hear different perspectives, it may also offer affirmations of long-held, heartfelt beliefs.

The day will be challenging! We encourage lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer+ (LGBTQ+) persons to attend. We hope LGBTQ+ family members, spouses, friends, and allies will participate. We welcome people who are wrestling with inclusion and exclusion issues. We invite those who are struggling with their conscience regarding the acceptance of all God's people.

God has been active in all of our lives and is still speaking to all of us. Our challenge is to find the path to living together as a diverse people who love The United Methodist Church.

Accept the challenge and come with an open heart and an open mind. Come not to argue or to convince others; come and be open to the Spirit's movement. We in Western PA have a great deal to share with our church. Let's find that common thread we can all hold onto as we walk together into the future.

Our Mission

Deeply rooted in the Wesleyan heritage and biblically grounded in a Christ-centered call to social justice, Western Pennsylvania Reconciling Ministries is a persistent voice and affirming witness, advocating for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons and those who are questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity into The United Methodist Church.

A Way Forward: Scripture, Justice, and Wesley

Keynote Speaker
Bishop Charlene Kammerer

March 17, 2018

8:30am–3:30pm

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
1965 Ferguson Road
Allison Park, PA 15101



Presented by
Western Pennsylvania Reconciling Ministries

Keynote Speaker

Bishop Charlene Kammerer



Bishop Kammerer's service in the church has included equal years in parish ministries and connectional ministries, including service as a campus minister at Duke University and as a District Superintendent of the Tallahassee District, Florida Conference. She was the first woman elected to the episcopacy at the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in July 1996. She served in the Charlotte Area and Virginia Conference; retiring in September 2012. Her longtime passions in ministry include higher education, mission involvement, the spirituality of administration, and justice and peace issues.

She is married to Leigh Kammerer, a native of Wisconsin, whose career was in addiction counseling. They are the parents of one son, Christopher Hal, and four grandchildren - Christopher, Noelle, Elton, and Max.

In retirement, Bishop Kammerer serves as Co-Chair of the Lake Junaluska Peace Conference Design Team, and enjoys writing, reading, preaching, and practicing the art of being a grandparent.

"I look forward to embracing a fully inclusive Church, which I believe is consistent with our Wesleyan heritage. The embodiment of personal and social holiness will be addressed, with biblical and personal foundational material and stories." – Bishop Charlene Kammerer

Seminars

Dialogues will take place in small groups that will give participants the opportunity to learn, listen, and discuss questions. Attendees will be assigned to a group so that all will have the opportunity to delve more deeply into each of the following three seminar topics.

Seminar Leaders

Speakers will integrate their knowledge, theology, and personal experiences into hour-long seminar settings.

Seminar A: Bishop Kammerer will provide the most up-to-date public facts about the Council of Bishops' latest version of *The Way Forward*. Bishop Kammerer has supported LGBTQ+ rights throughout her ministry.

Seminar B: Susan Laurie brings her national experiences along with a personal journey of exclusion she has experienced as a lesbian in the church. Sue grew up in WPA and graduated in 1995 from Garret Evangelical Seminary. Sharing the confidence of being gay and Christian, we will sing hymns, recount bible stories, and trust one another as followers of Jesus. While the path has been made difficult by old teachings of homosexuality, these lessons have been overcome by the scripture, tradition, experience and reason of faithful United Methodists.



Seminar C: Rev. Dr. Steven Tuell will draw on his expertise as the James A. Kelso Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. "Many Christians feel torn between their sense of



Christ's call to love and inclusion, and their perception that the Bible requires them to exclude LGBTQ+ folk. In this seminar, we will look at a few of the passages often cited in this conversation, but particularly at how we read and apply Scripture, proposing that the Bible does not compel us too exclude."

The Day's Schedule

8:30-9:15	Registration, coffee & rolls
9:15-9:30	Welcome & Devotions
9:30-10:30	Keynote Address
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45-11:45	Seminar Session 1
11:45-12:00	Break
12:00-12:30	Lunch
12:45-1:45	Seminar Session 2
1:45-2:00	Break
2:00-3:00	Seminar Session 3
3:00	Closing Moments

Registration Process

Please register early!

Cost is \$25 until March 1 and \$30 after March 2. Includes salad smorgasbord lunch. (Gluten-free and vegetarian available)

Use one of the following methods:

Online: <http://www.stpaulsumc.com/events-2/registrations-2/>

By Phone: Carla at St. Paul's UMC
412-486-7006

By Mail: Send your name, address, church, email, lunch needs, and check (St. Paul's UMC) to Carla Porterfield, 1965 Ferguson Road, Allison Park, PA 15101