



About Out in Scripture

You don't have to leave your mind, heart and body behind when you encounter the Bible. This Human Rights Campaign resource places comments about the Bible alongside the real life experiences and concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith and our allies.

Out In Scripture is a collection of **over 175 conversations about the Bible**. With the skilled help of 100 diverse scholars and pastors, from over 11 different denominations, you will discover a fresh approach to Scripture. **Here you can be honest, question and go deeper.**

Out in Scripture is a great devotional resource as you **consider your life of faith and put that faith into action**. It is also especially helpful for preachers preparing sermons based on the Revised Common Lectionary.

The Bible's not about beating you up, but lifting us all up. It includes the seeds of liberation and justice. You, too, can be out in Scripture.

How to Use

For Sermon and Worship Preparation

- Invite others to join you in your preparation, especially lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people of faith.
- Begin in silence and prayer, asking for God's guidance in your engagement out and in Scripture. Lift in prayer your congregation and those who may be touched by your preaching and worship.
- Slowly, prayerfully, read aloud the lectionary Bible readings for the day.
- Identify any questions or images that come to your mind and heart.
- Read the *Out In Scripture* commentary, pausing to reflect on questions within the commentary.
- Explore what God might be saying to you and your congregation through the commentary or through the insights of those who gather with you for preparation. What are particular insights that come from the perspectives presented that heal, disturb, challenge or inspire you? What might God be saying?
- Discern in prayer what God may be saying to you about these readings that need to be explored, advocated or celebrated through your sermon or congregation's worship experience.
- Conclude by following the section **PRAYERFULLY OUT IN SCRIPTURE** or with your own prayer or silence.

For Devotional Reflection or Bible Study

- If possible, invite others to join you in exploring the Bible. Draw together a group of LGBT folk and allies whom you trust and with whom you feel comfortable sharing your insights, doubts, hopes and hurts.
- If you will explore the passages alone, consider recording your journey with the passages in a journal. Perhaps begin a journal entry with a prayer or with the words, “O God...”
- Begin in a time of silence and prayer. Be aware of God’s presence, the life experience you bring with you to exploring the Bible and current situations of LGBT persons.
- Slowly read the Bible passages aloud. Pay attention to any questions, doubts, discomfort, joys and comfort that come to your heart, mind and body during the reading.
- Read the *Out In Scripture* commentary, pausing to reflect on the questions or your own questions within the commentary. Share responses with others or perhaps write in a journal.
- Again read any passage that you seem to particularly connect with — whether in a comforting or disturbing way.
- Discern: What might God be saying to you, to your congregation, to the LGBT community? What do you want to say to whom? What do you want to do?
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- Enter into a time of prayer and silence again. Conclude by following the section PRAYERFULLY OUT IN SCRIPTURE or with your own prayer or silence.

Editorial Board



Rev. Dr. Sidney D. Fowler is editor for *Out In Scripture*. He has worked for the national settings of both the United Church of Christ in worship and spiritual formation and the United Methodist Church in educational curriculum. He has extensive experience in developing lectionary-based resources including *Imaging the Word*, *Worship Ways* and the international ecumenical resources *Seasons of the Spirit*. Fowler has represented the United Church of Christ on the Consultation Common Texts, the ecumenical body that developed the Revised Common Lectionary. An ordained United Church of Christ pastor, he lives in Washington, D.C.

Rev. Dr. Charles W. Allen is an out gay Episcopal priest who serves as chaplain for Grace Unlimited, a Lutheran-Episcopal university ministry. He also teaches theology at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. He is a frequent preacher and author of several articles in academic journals, most of which can be found online at www.therevdrcharleswallen.com.



Rev. Dr. Deborah A. Appler is associate professor of Hebrew Bible at Moravian Theological Seminary. She is also a team member of the Megiddo archaeological expedition in northern Israel, and each season takes students, interested clergy and laity on the dig. Her academic interests center on the intersection of religion, gender and sexuality in the Hebrew Bible and how these texts and their interpretations impact the church. She is also an ordained elder of the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Dr. Randall Bailey is the Andrew W. Mellon professor of Hebrew Bible at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta. He teaches courses in the Pentateuch, historical books and new methodologies of interpretation of the Hebrew Bible. He concentrates on the relationship of Ancient Africa and the Hebrew Bible and he specializes in ideological criticism, especially as regards the points of intersection of race/ethnicity, gender, class, sex, sexual orientation and power in the biblical text.





Dr. Angela Bauer-Levesque is professor of biblical studies at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. In her teaching and writing she has emphasized various aspects of social location (gender, race, sexual identity) and their impact on biblical hermeneutics. Her publications include *Gender in the Book of Jeremiah: A Feminist-Literary Reading*, *Seeing God in Diversity: Exodus and Acts*, and various essays in anthologies, including “The Book of Jeremiah” in *The Queer Bible Commentary*. She is currently working on a book titled *Reading While White: Race, Racism, and the Bible*. Legally married, she and her partner Irma live in Ogunquit, ME.

Rev. Jacki Belile is the founder of Living Well Ministries (LWM). LWM supports lives of faith, intention and service through spiritual life coaching, weekly classes, and regular retreats. In 1999, Jacki was the first out member of the LGBT community approved for ordination in the American Baptist Churches-USA. Since then, she served as pastor of two welcoming and affirming congregations: Phoenix Community Church (Kalamazoo, MI) and Grace Baptist Church (Chicago). Since 2000, she has led retreats and seminars with LWM. Jacki holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Work from Taylor University and a Master of Divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary.



Rev. Dr. Michael Joseph Brown is associate professor of New Testament and Christian origins at the Candler School of Theology and the Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University. He has published widely on the development of religious practices, particularly prayer, in the early church.

Dr. Greg Carey is associate professor of New Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pa., and an active layperson in the United Church of Christ. He is the author of *Ultimate Things: An Introduction to Jewish and Christian Apocalyptic Literature*, among other works, and has appeared in documentaries for the BBC, the Discovery Channel and the National Geographic Channel.





Rev. Dr. Warren Carter is professor of New Testament at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX. He is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. His recent studies examine the role that the experience of the Roman imperial world plays in interpreting the gospel.

Rev. Sarah Carpenter-Vascik was raised in a pre Vatican II Catholic household, but left the Roman Catholic Church in 1966. She was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 1996, but is not affiliated with any denomination at the current time. She is a Biomedical Engineering Technician at the University of Vermont, where she transitioned male to female in 2005. Reverend Carpenter is also a transgender activist, providing training on transgender issues in education and the workplace, both on and off campus and is working on a GLBT guide to the Bible.



Dr. Valerie Bridgeman is associate professor of Hebrew Bible and Homiletics at Memphis Theological Seminary. She also is founding director of the seminary's Return Beat Theology and Arts Institute. She is general editor of *Africana* worship resources for The United Methodist Church. Her research and writing interests are in theophets, with particular interest in Womanist hermeneutics and cultural criticism.

Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre is associate professor of Social Ethics at Iliff School of Theology and director of Iliff's Justice and Peace Institute in Denver. He has published more than 12 books, including the award-winning *Reading the Bible from the Margins* (2002), *Doing Christian Ethics from the Margins* (2004) and *Santería: The Beliefs and Rituals of a Growing Religion in America* (2003). He has also published several articles, chapters in books and encyclopedia/dictionary entries. He has recently published *A Lily Among the Thorns: Imagining a New Christian Sexuality*.





Rev. Dr. Marvin Ellison is professor of Christian ethics at Bangor Theological Seminary and an ordained Presbyterian minister. His publications include *Same-Sex Marriage?: A Christian Ethical Analysis* (2004); *Body and Soul: Rethinking Sexuality as Justice-Love*, edited with Sylvia Thorson-Smith (2003); and *Erotic Justice: A Liberating Ethic of Sexuality* (1996). He has published numerous essays on same-sex marriage, gender justice in Protestant Christianity and changing patterns of family life. Ellison is an out gay man and co-chair of Maine's Religious Coalition Against Discrimination, a network of interfaith leaders engaged in education and advocacy for the full rights of LGBT persons.

Rev. Dr. Holly Hearon is assistant professor of New Testament at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. She is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and Catholic Biblical Association and is currently serving as president of the Midwest Society of Biblical Literature. Her research interests are Christian origins within Formative Judaism, women in the early church and the study of oral narrative and social memory in relation to the biblical text. She is also a minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She is an out lesbian who teaches New Testament and Greek at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN. She is the author of *The Mary Magdalene Tradition: Witness and Counter-Witness in Early Christian Communities*, and a contributor to the *Queer Bible Commentary*.



Rev. Dr. Ronald E. Hopson holds a joint appointment in the department of psychology and the school of divinity at Howard University, Washington, DC. He is a clinical psychologist and ordained minister. He is currently working on advancing psychologically-informed body-friendly theologies in the Black church.

Rev. Dr. Norman J. Kansfield is a conservative Calvinist theologian who lost his job as a seminary president after he presided at the marriage of his daughter to another woman. He is convinced that the Christian church needs to recover awareness that God changes God's mind (as in the story of Jonah). Such awareness makes our current task one of keeping up with God as God calls a wondrous variety of persons into the fellowship of God's people. Norm currently serves as senior scholar in residence at Drew University. He and Mary Klein Kansfield have three children: Ann and Jennifer, who serve as pastors in Brooklyn, NY, and John, who is doing graduate study in architecture in Tempe, AZ.



Dr. Tat-siong Benny Liew is associate professor of New Testament at Pacific School of Religion. He is the author of *Politics of Parousia: Reading Mark Inter(contextually)* (1999) and guest editor of the *Semeia* volume on "The Bible in Asian America" (2002). He is interested and invested in the issue of sexual justice and has written several articles on this particular issue in connection with the practice of biblical interpretation.

Rev. Phyllis V. Pennese is the founding and senior pastor of Pillar of Love Fellowship Church, Chicago, which is a new church start affiliated with Refuge Ministries and a member of The Fellowship. She also serves as chaplain for Plymouth Place, a retirement community affiliated with the UCC. Her distinctive achievements include the 2004 recipient of the G. Campbell Morgan Preaching Award from Chicago Theological Seminary and selection in 1991 by Chicago Women in Philanthropy as one of "Chicago's Women Leaders." She is the devoted partner of ten years to Vickie R. Sides. Together they are the grateful parents to their son, Brandon K.T. Sides.



Rev. Dr. Sandra H. Polaski is a New Testament scholar. She has published numerous works, including *A Feminist Introduction to Paul*. She was ordained by Glendale Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., and has been active in Baptist life.

Rev. Dr. Christine M. Smith is professor of Preaching at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Her research and teaching interests include: preaching and social justice from ethnic, cultural perspectives, celebrating and proclaiming resurrection, and LGBT studies. She has published widely on preaching and social justice, including *Risking the Terror: Resurrection in this Life* (2001).





Dr. Ken Stone is professor of Bible, Culture and Hermeneutics and director of the Ph.D. program at Chicago Theological Seminary. He is the author of numerous books and articles, including *Practicing Safer Texts: Food, Sex and Bible in Queer Perspective* (2005) and *Sex, Honor and Power in the Deuteronomistic History* (1996). He is also the editor of *Queer Commentary and the Hebrew Bible* (2001). The winner of a Lambda Literary Award, Stone focuses much of his research and writing on the relationship between biblical interpretation and matters of gender and sexuality. His other research and teaching interests include interdisciplinary approaches to biblical interpretation, neglected areas of the canon and ways of rethinking biblical theology in the contemporary world.

Rev. Dr. Linda E. Thomas is professor of theology and anthropology at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Thomas' research into the cultural significance of theology and community has taken her to South Africa; Peru; Cuba; and the former Soviet Union provinces of Russia, Kiev and Leningrad. She has published numerous works including *Under the Canopy: Ritual Process and Spiritual Resilience in South Africa*. In addition, she has contributed articles and book reviews to numerous journals, including *The Journal of Religious Thought*, *The Journal of Black Theology in South Africa* and *The Journal of Supervision and Training in Ministry*. She has pastored congregations in White Plains and Brooklyn, N.Y.



Rev. Dr. Mona West is the senior pastor of Church of the Trinity, Metropolitan Community Church, in Sarasota, Fla. Originally ordained in the Southern Baptist denomination in 1987, she transferred her credentials to MCC in 1992. She holds a M. Div. and a Ph.D. in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. West is the author of *Take Back the Word: A Queer Reading of the Bible* from the Pilgrim Press. She is one of four editors for the recently published collection *The Queer Bible Commentary*, by SCM Press.

Rev. Dr. Judith Hoch Wray is an out lesbian biblical scholar, teacher and preacher. An activist for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the church for over 25 years, her diverse writings reflect her passion for preaching, for the New Testament, for the church and for justice action informed by feminist and queer theology. She is director of the Faith Empowerment Institute and pastoral associate at Park Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in New York City.



Additional Writers

Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She currently serves as associate pastor at Lake View Presbyterian Church in Chicago, IL, a More Light Congregation within the denomination. Part of her role in the congregation is to coordinate Cafe Pride, a safe social space for LGBTQ youth held in the church's fellowship hall on Friday evenings. This is her first congregational call and she feels blessed to work with a church that is truly open, affirming and loving toward all God's people.

Douglas Abbott is a candidate in the Masters program in Theology and the Arts at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton, MN. Douglas is also a visual artist, primarily working with deep-relief cast handmade paper combined with welded metal. He is a member of First Universalist Church of Minneapolis.

Laci Lee Adams is a queer, white, Cajun woman. She is both a student at Iliff School of Theology and the minister of community discipleship at Warren United Methodist Church.

Rachel Allen is a recent graduate from Iliff School of Theology, pursuing ordination in the United Methodist Church. She is a Caucasian straight supporter who recently moved to southern California to work in youth and young adult ministries.

Rev. Kharma Amos is the pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Northern Virginia in Fairfax, and is a current student in the Doctor of Ministry Program at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass.

Rev. April Baker is one of the pastors of Glendale Baptist Church in Nashville. She has served on the board of directors of the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America and is a member of the Alliance of Baptists. She is one of the few out lesbians within the Alliance of Baptists. Part of her work with these two organizations has included working with others to coordinate a retreat that was the basis for the feature article "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth: A Resource for Congregations in Dialogue on Sexual Orientation."

Rev. Dr. Bentley de Bardelaben is an ordained United Church of Christ minister. An experienced pastor, de Bardelaben was recently appointed minister for racial justice in the Justice and Witness Ministries Office of the United Church of Christ, Cleveland.

Rev. Sharon A. Benton is the associate minister at Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ in Fort Collins, Colorado. Plymouth is her first congregation after serving several years in chaplaincy. She and her partner, Jamie Kepros, are learning what it will mean to each be a "postmodern pastor's wife" as Kepros also prepares for ordained ministry.

Julianne Buenting is preparing for ordination to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church, U.S.A. She is concurrently a Master of Divinity student at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. student at Chicago Theological Seminary. Her research focuses on theology, ethics, and queer theory.

Michael Carden is an honorary research advisor in the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. He has written numerous works including *Popular Spiritualities: The Politics of Contemporary Enchantment* (2006); entries on Genesis, Joshua and the Twelve Minor Prophets in the international collaborative project *The Queer Bible* (2006), and *Sodomy: A History of a Christian Biblical Myth* (2004). Michael has a long history of trade union, queer community and AIDS activism in Brisbane. Michael counts himself as a fringe Catholic.

Rev. Sarah Carpenter-Vascik was raised in a pre Vatican II Catholic household, but left the Roman Catholic Church in 1966. She was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 1996, but is not affiliated with any denomination at the current time. She is a Biomedical Engineering Technician at the University of Vermont, where she transitioned male to female in 2005. Reverend Carpenter is also a transgender activist, providing training on transgender issues in education and the workplace, both on and off campus and is working on a GLBT guide to the Bible.

Dr. Alma Faith Crawford is associate professor of preaching and worship at Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA. A minister with standing with the United Church of Christ and the Unitarian Universalist Association, she describes herself as an "in the life" African biblical theologian. She is the mother of Elizabeth, a six year old womanist.

Anne Dunlap is a second-year student at Iliff School of Theology in Denver. Along with other Iliff students, she was invited to participate in *Out In Scripture* by her professor and *Out In Scripture* editorial advisory board member, the Rev. Dr. Miguel A. De La Torre. Dunlap is a lesbian, passionately in love with her partner of 12 years. Dunlap's particular theological interests include recovering the Bible as a source for community-building and justice-making for the progressive church, and the use of liturgy/ritual/sacrament in the struggle for peace and justice. Dunlap is seeking ordination in the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Dr. Mary Foulke is senior associate for Christian formation at the Church of St. Luke in the Fields (Episcopal), New York City. She also serves as chaplain at St. Luke's School and as adjunct professor of pastoral theology at General Theological Seminary, New York City.

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Rev. Jennifer Glass serves on staff as the Rock the World pastor at Vision of Hope Metropolitan Community Church in Mountville, PA, and is the administrative assistant for Metropolitan Community Church Region 3, working with Rev. Elder Arlene Ackerman. She graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity degree in 2005. She also earned a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Ministry from Boston College in 1997. Jen and her partner Maria share their home with 8 of God's creatures, 3 dogs and 5 cats.

Rev. Robert Griffin is the special assistant to the presiding elder/moderator of the Metropolitan Community Churches, program director for the Office of Clergy Development and is part of the pastoral staff at the Sunshine Cathedral, Metropolitan Community Church, in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Originally licensed in the Baptist denomination in 1984, he transferred his credentials to MCC in 1996. He holds a Master of Divinity from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA, and is a student in the Doctor of Ministry Program at the Florida Center for Theological Studies in Miami, FL. He and his partner, Durrell Watkins, reside in Wilton Manors, FL.

Dr. Scott Haldeman is associate professor of worship at Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago. Specializing in the history, theology and practice of US Protestant worship, Scott is also interested in the less formal ways human being ritualize themselves in relation to various categories of identity, such as gender and sexuality. A recent example of his work in queer religious studies is "A Queer Fidelity: Re-inventing Christian Marriage" in *Theology and Sexuality*, 13(2): 173-88.

Kim Hearn received her Master's of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology. She is currently pursuing and advanced degree in the area of Christian Sociology and Ethics called the Master's of Theological Studies. She works with the Fund for Theological Education. She has dedicated her life to lobbying and fighting for the human rights of all.

Deirdre Hinz is a student in the Master of Divinity program at United Theological Seminary, New Brighton, MN, where she also completed her M.A. in Religion and Theology in 2005. She is a member of the Wider Church Ministries board of directors, a covenanted ministry of the United Church of Christ. Deirdre is also interning at University Baptist Church, a Welcoming and Affirming congregation in Minneapolis. She is a member of Mayim Rabim, a Reconstructionist Jewish congregation in Southeast Minneapolis, with her partner, Abbey, whose interfaith insight is a constant source of blessing.

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Rev. Eun-sang Lee is a straight Asian-American male clergyperson serving Warren United Methodist Church, a reconciling congregation in Denver.

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Lorraine Leist is a Caucasian, United Church of Christ, bisexual student at Iliff School of Theology in Denver. She is mother to a young son, and is passionate about the intersections of justice, identity and Christianity.

Rev. Carol Leah Lewis, J.D. is pursuing the Doctor of Philosophy at Emory University specializing in African Diasporic theology and homiletics. She holds degrees from Yale University School of Divinity, Howard University School of Law and Bowling Green State University. Her research involves the religious experience of Baptists of African descent in Brazil, Ghana and North America.

Eu Kit Lim (Kit) is a straight man from Malaysia of Chinese descent. He became a Christian during his senior year at college. Currently he is pursuing a doctorate degree at the Iliff School of Theology and the University of Denver with interests in social justice, liberation theology, Latin American social movements and reconciliation between liberal and conservative Christians.

Jill Marshall is currently pursuing the Master of Theology degree, with a focus in New Testament and early Christian history, at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She has a Master's from Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

Rev. Dr. Kathi E. Martin is a community “bridge builder” who believes we are more powerful change agents when working together than when we are divided. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. Presently Dr. Martin serves as an associate minister at The Victory Church (UCC) in Stone Mountain, GA., and is a board member of the UCC Coalition for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Concerns.

Rev. Julia Mayo-Quinlan, long a straight ally to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, is a retired United Methodist pastor, who served in the New York Conference and upon retirement is serving in south Florida.

Sheena Mayrant received her Master of Divinity at Columbia Theological Seminary in May 2007. She is currently a Fellow of the Black Women in Ministerial Leadership Program administered by the The Office of Black Women in Church and Society at the Interdenominational Theological Seminary, Atlanta, GA. Sheena is a straight woman who enjoys working with urban ministries in an international context.

Dr. Rev. Kathy McCallie currently serves as pastor of Church of the Open Arms United Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. Kathy has been an activist for human rights and justice issues for many years. She has served as the chairperson of the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, and the Clergy Coalition for Human Rights. Kathy's favorite volunteer work has been with the Peace House and RAIN, Regional AIDS Interfaith Network. Kathy is a proud mother of three children and an avid gardener. She enjoys reading feminist novels and listening to Mozart.

Rev. Rich McCarty is a Ph.D. candidate in the department of religious studies at the University of Iowa, co-moderator of the Holy Relationships National Steering Committee and an ordained minister in the Reformed Church in America. McCarty is writing a dissertation on Thomas Aquinas and the virtue of temperance as it relates to sexual ethics.

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Dr. Michael Miller is a straight man and ally who teaches philosophical and systematic theology at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. Among his upcoming publications is the work *Reshaping the Contextual Vision in Caribbean Theology*.

Rev. Wendell C. Miller is a Ph.D. student in New Testament Studies at Claremont Graduate University, Claremont CA. He is also a minister in the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Irene Monroe is author who has been published in numerous journals, publications and books. She writes from a lesbian standpoint in the weekly column "The Religion Thang," found in *Newsweekly*, the largest LGBT newspaper that circulates widely throughout New England. She also writes "Faith Matters" for *The Advocate* and "Queer Take" for *The Witness*, a progressive Episcopalian journal. Her writings have appeared in the *Boston Herald* and in *Boston Globe*. Her award-winning essay, "Louis Farrakhan's Ministry of Misogyny and Homophobia" was noted with critical acclaim.

Rev. Dr. G. Penny Nixon is currently the senior minister at the Congregational Church of San Mateo, United Church of Christ, in San Mateo, CA. She is also the former senior minister of Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) San Francisco.

Rev. Vanessa E. Owen is an out lesbian and ordained United Church of Christ pastor currently serving as staff chaplain at the Children's Hospital in Denver. She is especially interested in helping a new vision of the church to emerge, keeping Scripture, sacrament, liturgy and ritual as central tools for enacting the peace of God. She is honored to be on the journey with her partner and blessed by the companionship of their two dogs and two cats.

Beth Pease is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in NYC with a passion for biblical scholarship, currently serves as a labor organizer. She is in the ordination process in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Kimberly R. Peeler is pursuing doctoral studies in New Testament at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Her interests are themes of discipleship in the Gospel of John.

Rev. Ken Pilot is an ordained minister in the Metropolitan Community Churches, serving as senior pastor of MCC Family in Christ in Fort Collins, Colorado. He also serves on the denomination's Board of Pensions and as mentor in the Church Revitalization Initiative.

Dr. Alton B. Pollard III is director of the Black Church Studies Program and associate professor of religion and culture at Candler School of Theology and the Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University in Atlanta.

Rev. Donna M. Prince Prince is an ordained UCC clergy and a chaplain, whose current ministry focuses on spiritual direction. Her workshops on "sacred pampering principles" help people reclaim the value of their bodies and their sexuality. Prince is a lesbian educator and pastoral presence who is active at Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City.

Jennifer Pope is a Ph.D. student at Chicago Theological Seminary whose research focuses on Christology and queer theory. She holds a Master's degree in theological studies from North Park Theological Seminary and serves as the director of the International Office at North Park University. She is a member of Broadway United Methodist Church in Chicago.

Vernice L. Thorn is an itinerant elder ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, currently serving as the associate pastor of Broadway United Methodist Church in Chicago. Her primary focus is on spiritual formation and confronting racism, sexism, heterosexism and other forms of oppression. Vernice serves on the national board of Church within a Church, a progressive Methodist movement dedicated to being an inclusive church.

Rev. Dr. Ann Holmes Redding has served both as a minister and teacher in both parishes and seminaries for 20 years. An active ally of the LGBT community, she earned her PhD in New Testament from Union Theological Seminary in New York. She also has been a Muslim since March 2006. She says that practicing Islam "makes me a better Christian."

Rev. Caroline Redfearn is an ordained minister with the Metropolitan Community Church. She pastors with black people's ministry in MCC (Region 4) and through the on-line ministry at www.blackpeoplesministries.com. Currently she is completing her Ph.D. at Birmingham University, England, researching homophobia and the Black Church.

Rev. Dr. Wayne A. Reed is a gay religious educator who is active in social justice ministry at Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City. He is currently assistant professor of education at Brooklyn College (City University of New York) and is involved in action-based research on education and poverty.

Sara Rosenau is a doctoral student in Religion at Drew University. She holds an M.Div and MSW and is a candidate for ordination with the United Church of Christ.

Dr. Helene Tallon Russell is assistant professor of theology at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. Her areas of special interests include feminist theology, process thought, Soren Kierkegaard and concepts of selfhood. She lives in Indianapolis with her parrot Tangelo.

Dr. Timothy J. Sandoval is associate professor of Hebrew Bible at Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois. Sandoval's research has focused on Israelite and ancient Jewish Wisdom Literature and he is the author of *The Discourse of Wealth and Poverty in the Book of Proverbs*. He has offered courses on "intertestamental" literature, the Bible and economic ethics as well as the Bible and immigration.

Deacon Jack Seymour is a member of the Episcopal Church, U.S.A. and a Master of Arts student at Chicago Theological Seminary. Jack's ministry has been focused on individuals in crisis or contemplating life changes.

Arlie Sims is a student in the Master of Divinity program at Chicago Theological Seminary and a member of Broadway United Methodist Church in Chicago where he serves as Broadway Authorized Minister, serving in a pastoral role while remaining open in his identity as a gay man in spite of denominational prohibitions against the ordination of out gay and lesbian persons.

Mykal O'Neal Slack has practiced law fighting for the rights of LGBT people all over the country at places as the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the ACLU LGBT Rights Project. He is also a candidate for the ordained ministry with the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC). Currently, he investigates discrimination claims for the Lancaster County Human Relations Commission and is a student clergy at Vision of Hope MCC in Mountville, PA. Mykal is married to his wife Sandy, and they spend their spare time keeping up with their Yorkie, Tobi-Lyn.

Rev. Shively T. J. Smith is a student in the Master's of Theological Studies Program at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, where her focus is on New Testament studies.

Rev. Dr. Stephen V. Sprinkle is director of field education and supervised ministry, and associate professor of Practical Theology at Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, a post he has held since 1994. An

ordained Baptist minister, he is the first open and out gay scholar in the history of Brite Divinity School, and the first open and out LGBT person to be tenured there.

Rev. Dr. Marti J. Steussy, MacAllister-Petticrew professor of biblical interpretation at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, is an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Her book publications include *Psalms* (2004), *David: Biblical Portraits of Power* (1999) and *Gardens in Babylon: Narrative and Faith in the Greek Legends of Daniel* (1993), as well as two science fiction novels.

Vernice L. Thorn is an itinerant elder ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, currently serving as the associate pastor of Broadway United Methodist Church in Chicago. Her primary focus is on spiritual formation and confronting racism, sexism, heterosexism and other forms of oppression. Vernice serves on the national board of Church within a Church, a progressive Methodist movement dedicated to being an inclusive church.

Dr. Holly Toensing is assistant professor in the department of theology at Xavier University in Cincinnati. A New Testament scholar, she is also program chair for the Society of Biblical Literature's LGBTQ Hermeneutics Consultation.

Pastor Joseph Tolton enjoys a three-faceted career serving the gay and lesbian community as a voice for spiritual freedom, social justice and economic empowerment. As a professional man of faith, Tolton is the pastor of Rehoboth Temple Christ Conscious Church where he seeks to empower all people with the transformative power of the Gospel and to nurture disciples of Christ in the Pentecostal Apostolic tradition. As a public advocate, Tolton serves as director of the REVIVAL Initiative. He is also the managing director of Blur Advertising, a full-service brand development and marketing communications firm. Tolton received his bachelor's degree in religion from Vassar College and his master's of business administration in management from Columbia University Business School.

Rev. Dr. D. Mark Wilson is an ordained American Baptist minister and former pastor of McGee Avenue Baptist Church in Berkeley, CA. He is a graduate of Howard University, Harvard Divinity School and the University of Michigan, where he received his Ph.D. in Sociology. Rev. Dr. Wilson is currently the assistant professor in Ministry and Congregational Leadership at the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, and a lecturer in the Department of Sociology, at the University of California Berkeley.

Rev. S. David Wynn, Sr. holds a masters of theological studies degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Wynn has been a pastor in Metropolitan Community Churches more than 10 years. Wynn came out as transgender in November 2003. He currently serves as the associate pastor at Church of the Trinity, Metropolitan Community Church, in Sarasota, Fla.

Rev. Bridgette D. Young is the senior associate dean of the chapel and religious life at Emory University in Atlanta. She has a long-standing alliance with the LGBT community through her role as a chaplain, helping students cultivate a healthy view of how both sexuality and spirituality contribute to one's wholeness.

Rev. Jacquie Church Young is co-director of Leadership Now: Spiritual Formation with Youth at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pa. She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.

Yvonne Zimmerman is a doctoral candidate in the religion and social change concentration of the joint Ph.D. in religious and theological studies at Iliff School of Theology and University of Denver. She is also a member of the adjunct faculty at the University of Denver and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Rev. Sarah Carpenter is an ordained minister and transgender awareness trainer at the University of Vermont. She has two grown children and is separated from her spouse of 33 years. She resides in Burlington, Vermont.

Colleen Fay is a transgender woman still in here first year of living openly. She says, “It’s exciting, wonderful and scary all at the same time. The sense of God’s love expressed through the wonderful people that I meet sustains me at every minute.”

Rev. Elijah Nealy is an out trans-man who serves as a pastor with Metropolitan Community Churches and a licensed social worker. He resides in New York City with his faithful dog, Jack.

Rev. Allyson Robinson served as senior pastor-teacher of Baptist churches in the U.S. and Europe for nine years before becoming associate director of diversity for transgender concerns at the Human Rights Campaign. She, her wife, and their four children live in Gaithersburg, Maryland.