Dear Reconciling Friends,

_Teach us to hear and sing new songs. A song of praise and promise, of insight and hope._ These words from _Choir Prayer_ by Bobbi Patterson echo the journey each community commits to when they begin the Reconciling process. Through study, discussions, worship and witness your community sought out new songs and singers to swell your community voice. You made a decision, whether twenty-six years ago or last month, that the long line of your community’s canon would resound from a place of inclusion for all God’s children.

This new song you sing to our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender sisters and brothers as a Reconciling congregation, community or campus ministry harmonizes with the songs of love, justice and liberation we find in the scriptures. Some of these ancient stories of both joy and pain are highlighted this year in the Reconciling service outline, their mirror modern stories are waiting to be told by members of your community in the lessons and carols service outlined on the next page.

A few of you might be thinking “this is just preaching to the choir,” and in some ways you’re right. On the other hand, sometimes we need to preach to the choir because not everyone is singing. Have all members of your community been invited to sign up as Reconciling United Methodists (RUM)? Do you raise funds to send a team from your church to witness for full inclusion to general conference, jurisdictional conference and annual conference like you send mission teams out into your community and around the world? Does your congregation make an annual contribution to RMN? Is your community modeling God’s diverse creation through inclusion of all members? If you answered yes, then please call the RMN office and tell us how you did it! We want to share your model of graceful engagement with the whole movement. If you answered no to many of these questions check out the “many ways to sing a new song” resource for suggestions on how to hold a RUM drive or get involved in the movement for full inclusion beyond your local church. Whether you answered yes or no, plan today to send a team and message from your community to Sing a New Song, August 25-29, 2011 in Huron, Ohio. Sing a New Song, a partnership event with the Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA), will build our movement to strengthen our local communities while we organize for full inclusion in our global church.

Join your voices with the chorus of Reconciling United Methodists creating harmony out of dissonance by striking new cords from the sharp notes of injustice and exclusion in the United Methodist Church.

Peace, hope and love,

Rachel Harvey, deaconess
Associate Executive Director

Audrey Krumbach
National Field Organizer

(Please Turn Over)
The Reconciling Sunday packet has a new look.

In an effort to be better stewards of the environment, we’ve limited the amount of paper we produced for this packet. With this letter, you’ve received a sample outline of the Reconciling service, guide for storytellers and a copy of the new song Believe Out Loud (composed by David Lohman with the Institute for Welcoming Resources). The full Reconciling Sunday packet with new songs, a bulletin insert and guides for a children’s moment and action planning are available for download on the RMN website at http://www.rmnetwork.org/reconciling-sunday. If you need a print copy of the Reconciling Sunday packet please contact the RMN office and we’ll mail you the complete packet.

Download the 2011 Reconciling Sunday packet: http://www.rmnetwork.org/reconciling-sunday

Contact RMN for a paper version of the 2011 Reconciling Sunday packet:

Reconciling Ministries Network
3801 N. Keeler Ave
Chicago, IL 60641
(773) 736-5526
rachel@rmnetwork.org

There are as many ways to celebrate Reconciling Sunday as there are Reconciling Communities. Some communities commemorate the anniversary of their reconciling decision or recognize the third Sunday in January which is nearest Human Relations Day. Other communities celebrate on Pentecost or during community pride celebrations.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact RMN’s outreach department: Rachel Harvey, Associate Executive Director or Audrey Krumbach, National Organizer at (773) 736-5526

The fermata is a musical symbol, used to indicate a long-hold or pause. Placed above the note to be elongated, this symbol is often found at the end of a piece, or before a long rest.
Reconciling Sunday 2011:
A Service of Hymns and Stories

Prelude
Believe Out Loud
©2010 Welcome Song Music

Welcome

Call to Worship
We Sing to You, O God
TFWS 2001

Opening Prayer
Choir Prayer
Shaping Sanctuary

Children’s Time
There’s a Song
Galatians 5:22
TFWS 2141

Hymn
Sing a New Church V.1-3
©1991 SSB

Scripture (OT)
Isaiah 43:19

Lesson 1

Hymn
Sing a New Church v.4-5
©1991 SSB

Scripture (Gospel)
Matthew 25: 31-46

Lesson 3

Anthem
Everything Possible (choir)
©1993 Fred Small
or Changed (Congregation)
©2003 AARONieq Music

Scripture
2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Lesson 3

Responsive Action

Responsive Hymn
Believe Out Loud
©2010 Welcome Song Music

Offering

Closing Hymn
We Are Called
TFWS 2172

Benediction

Postlude
Notes and Instructions for planning
A Service of Hymns and Stories
Adapt this resource in whatever way is best for your congregation. Please consider sending a copy of your final order of worship / Reconciling Sunday bulletin for the Reconciling Congregations archives c/o the RMN office.

All songs and resources can be found at www.rmnetwork.org/reconciling-sunday

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Notes &amp; Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prelude</td>
<td><em>Believe Out Loud</em></td>
<td>This is an opportunity to teach this new song to the congregation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<td>Call to Worship</td>
<td><em>We Sing to You, O God</em></td>
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<td>Scripture (OT)</td>
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<td>Story Sharing 1</td>
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<td>Hymn</td>
<td><em>Sing a New Church v.4-5</em></td>
<td>Reference copy available from rmnetwork.org</td>
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<td>Scripture</td>
<td>Matthew 25: 31-46</td>
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<td>Story Sharing 2</td>
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<td>See below</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hymn/Anthem</td>
<td><em>Everything Possible</em> (choir)</td>
<td><em>Changed</em> (Congregational) is written to be sung by a congregation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scripture (Epistle)</td>
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<td>Story Sharing 3</td>
<td>Becoming Reconciling Ambassadors</td>
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<td>Response</td>
<td>Congregational time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Responsive Hymn</td>
<td>Believe Out Loud</td>
<td>(sung by all) (available at rmnetwork.org)</td>
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<td>Benediction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postlude</td>
<td></td>
<td>Possible choices include: The United Methodist Hymnal 437, 451; TFWS 2045</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Songs and Musical Resources

All songs are available from either *The Faith We Sing* United Methodist resource or www.rmnetwork.org, but rights for distribution and use must be obtained by congregations through CCLI, One License or other appropriate agency. RMN and reconciling communities have non-commercial permission to distribute and copy *Believe Out Loud* when full citation is included in all materials. For more information, please visit http://welcomesongmusic.com/
Children’s Time:

Begin by showing pictures of churches or a small church model if you have one around. Ask the children, “What is the church made up of?” Hopefully responses will include brick, wood, walls, roofs, maybe people.

Invite the kids to consider that the church is built of bricks or wood, but it is also built of love, peace, faith, hope and joy – all fruits of the spirit. Read Galatians 5:22.

Then encourage the kids to think of themselves, like the church, as built of love, peace, faith, hope, and joy – gifts from God that both make our own lives better, and make the world around us better. God puts these gifts in us to bless us and the world around us. Conclude by singing TFWS 2142, “There’s a song.”

Responsive Activity:

Before the service, copy RC Sunday bulletin inserts and pass out or include with other worship bulletins.

Before singing Believe Out Loud, invite congregants to consider becoming involved in reconciling work beyond your local congregation. Remind congregants that members of reconciling congregations must sign up individually if they wish to become a Reconciling United Methodist. Encourage congregants to sign up as Reconciling United Methodists even if they have already signed up and place the bulletin insert in your offering plate. After service, please collect filled out inserts and mail the stack to the RMN office at 3801 N Keeler Ave., Chicago IL 60641 OR have a church staff person collect the information in an excel spreadsheet which can be emailed to Stephanie@rmnetwork.org. Please put “New RUMs” in your email subject line. See Many Ways to Sing A New Song to find other possible responsive activities.

Choir Prayer

~Bobbi Patterson in Shaping Sanctuary

Gracious God,
Whose breath is song in the colors of creation
Whose themes of promise play hopeful rhythms
beating the journey of our lives
Be present now and bless us who share in this common life
as we gather our instruments, notes
and pulse for the beginning of life.
Teach us to hear and sing new songs
A song of praise and promise,
of insight and hope.
Mindful of skills shaped by memory’s often difficult way
Shape us with the strands of your covenant
that ancient melody whose lines of justice and mercy
thread imaginative patterns of harmony and dissonance
through our common life and in the world.
Engage us in the rigors of learning
that our efforts may weave their part
in the larger tunes of human and natural life
Bless our sound
binding it in your abiding love.
Commend to us the truths of fellowship and service
No longer offering our gifts as outsiders, isolated troubadours,
but claiming our dependence on one another
and the riches of the plant’s imagination. Amen.
Recruiting Storytellers

Everyone has a story. Some stories focus upon a time when someone felt included or excluded; others describe how a close friend or family member’s experience shapes their commitment to inclusion; others may relate an experience seemingly unrelated that perfectly illustrates the values which motivate the storyteller’s actions. All of these stories express hope or pain, convey urgency, inspire action, and often encourage listeners to reflect upon their own stories. The best Reconciling service will call upon both lay and clergy storytellers, and storytellers might gather to practice their stories the week before a reconciling Sunday. Your congregation may have several members who have been active in the Called to Witness campaign, if so, these leaders might help other’s prepare or be willing to share their stories as well.

Overview of storytelling:

Each lesson should last around 6 minutes and might consist of three primary acts. Each 2 minute “act” describes one event, moment or decision in the storyteller’s life. We call these three acts: “self, us, and now.” The Self-act should relate an experience in which the storyteller felt the need for or joy of LGBT inclusion. The Us-act illustrates values which define our community’s commitment to reconciling inclusion, and the Now-act will challenge the community to ask how God is calling you at this time. To watch example stories, visit www.rmnetwork.org.

Preparing stories: Guiding Questions

Use these guides to inspire stories, but do not feel limited by the recommended questions which are meant to inspire, not instruct.

Lesson 1 follows the reading of Isaiah 43:19 “I am about to do a new thing… I will make a way in the wilderness” and is intended to inspire reflection upon the wilderness from whence we came, how far we have already come, the new things God has already begun in our congregations (and denomination), and how paths which were once new and unknown led us to a place where we are ready for God’s next calling, next step.

Lesson 2 reflects upon Matthew 25:31-46, the story of the sheep and goats and the instruction to care for “the least of these.” Right here in our community, who is figuratively imprisoned, hungry, excluded or naked? Who is literally hungry, imprisoned, naked and/or excluded? What does this community already do for these people? What more could we do?

Lesson 3 reflects upon our shared call to be “ambassadors of reconciliation,” in Corinthians 5:18-20. When has someone shared God’s reconciling message with me, or have I had the opportunity to share with another? What do we already do to share God’s message of reconciliation with our community? What more might we do? What is God’s the message our community needs to hear today?

Crafting a powerful story

- Tell ONE story, focusing upon a single event (don’t give your entire biography)
- Focus upon describing details not explaining thoughts
- Using feeling words like hurt, hoped, sad, happy…
- Remember, every good story has a beginning, middle and end
- Something has to happen – don’t talk about what you think, but about an event or experience

Preparation and Presentation: a little preparation can take away most of your anxiety.

- Practice in front of a mirror
- Practice with a friend or your pastor
- Write out your story as you being to organize your thoughts. (Two pages, typed, double-spaced, size 14, Times New Roman font will be about the correct length)
- Speak calmly, slowly and naturally
- If you get flustered, stop and take a deep breath. (Everyone will think it’s a dramatic pause).

More storytelling information, examples, and tips are online at www.rmnetwork.org/tell-your-story/
August 25-28, 2011
Sawmill Creek Resort
Huron, Ohio

“Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will reign and we’ll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.”
– lyrics from We Are Called by David Haas

Join United Methodists united in love to find family, create community, break bread, share stories, and mobilize for mission!

With inspirational worship, engaging Bible study, revitalizing small group conversations, movement building training, and re-creation in a beautiful resort campus, Sing a New Song will be the perfect blend of spiritual retreat and grassroots organizing to move us forward together to realize the change to which we believe God beckons us.

Register for Sing A New Song at:
www.sans2011.org

Yes! I want to be a Reconciling United Methodist. I will raise my voice and sing a new song about God’s welcome for all people of all sexual orientations and gender identities into the full life of the United Methodist Church.

Name: (printed)
Year of Birth:
Email:
Cell Phone:
Home Phone:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Church:

Demographic Information (optional):

Family of LGBT person (specify):

Ⅻ Laity
Ⅻ Clergy
Ⅻ Person of Color
Ⅻ Straight/Ally
Ⅻ L/G/B
Ⅻ Transgender

Racial/Ethnic Identity:

Reconciling Ministries Network
3801 North Keeler Ave • Chicago IL • 60641
Phone: 773-736-5526 • Fax: 773-736-5475 • Web: www.rmnetwork.org

Sing a New Song is a partnership event between Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) and Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) creating a common vision of justice and intentional inclusion for our church and world.
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Name: (printed)  Year of Birth:  Email:  Cell Phone:  Home Phone:  Address:  City/State/Zip:  Church:  Racial/Ethnic Identity:

Demographic Information (optional)

Family of LGBT person (specify):

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“Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when we will be one, God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers united in love.”  — lyrics from We Are Called by David Haas
Believe Out Loud

Words and Music by David Lohman
Believe Out Loud

Words and Music by David Lohman

Bright $\frac{\dot{\text{b}}}{4} = 150$

REFRAIN

It's time to believe out loud

A

D

D$\Delta$

no more staying silent! It's time to proclaim aloud

G

Asus

D

the faith that we hold dear

D$\Delta$

Em7

Asus

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All rights reserved.
It's time to reach out to the rejected. It's time to stand up and say, "No more!" It's time to create a church in this
day where everyone's welcomed in the door. It's time to believe.
It's time to be strong and proud,
out loud,
It's time to believe, believe out loud.

Believe Out Loud - 3
VERSES

1. Our God remains unchanged, yet
   in so many ways the Holy One's still speaking,
   for this we offer praise.

2. If thoughts like love and justice are
   more than hollow words, we'll listen for the Spirit
   and let our hearts be stirred.

3. The love of God is boundless, we're
   never turned away. And out of this abundance
   this gift we must repay.

Yet

We'll

We've
God's all-loving guidance too often goes unheard.
learn to think in new ways, the doors we'll open wide.
got to stand with millions who've heard the Spirit's call,

But there is yet more wisdom to
The table's set and read y, bring
and shout it from the mountains: "God's

break forth from God's Word!
ev 'ry one in side!
love is meant for all!"

G Em7 Asus
Believe Out Loud

REFRAIN

It's time to be-lieve out loud

no more stay-ing si-lent! It's time to pro-claim a-loud

the faith that we hold dear.

It's time to reach out to the re-jec-ted. It's time to stand up

and say, "No more!" It's time to cre-ate a church in this

day where ev-ry-one's wel-comed in the door. It's time to be-lieve

out loud, It's time to be strong and proud,

It's time to be-lieve, be-lieve out loud.

Text: David Lohman
Music: David Lohman

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Believe Out Loud

VERSES

1. Our God remains unchanging,
   Yet in so many ways the tests are more than hollow words, we'll less, we're never turned away. And

   Holy One's still speaking, for this we offer praise. Listen for the Spirit and let our hearts be stirred.
   Out of this abundance this gift we must repay.

2. If thoughts like love and justice are more than hollow words, we'll less, we're never turned away. And

   God's all-loving guidance too. We'll learn to think in new ways, the
   We've got to stand with millions who've

3. The love of God is boundless, yet in so many ways the test are more than hollow words, we'll less, we're never turned away. And

   God's all-loving guidance too. We'll learn to think in new ways, the
   We've got to stand with millions who've

   Often goes unheard. But there is yet more wisdom heard the Spirit's call,
   The table's set and read and shout it from the mountain

Refrain

- dom to break forth from God's Word!
- y, bring ev'ry one inside!
- tains: "God's love is meant for all!"
Sing a New Church

Tune: “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” by Delores Dufner, OSB


1. Summoned by the God who made us Rich in our diversity,
   Gathered in the name of Jesus, Richer still in unity,
   Let us bring the gifts that differ
   In splendid, varied ways, Sing a new Church into being, One in faith and love and praise.

2. Radiant risen from the water, Robed in holiness and light,
   Male and female in God’s image, Gay and straight we’re God’s delight,
   We have been invited; gonna share the invitation
   Thank you for this new life, thank you for this invitation.

3. Trust the goodness of creation; Trust the Spirit strong with race.
   Weave a song of peace and justice; Let it sound through time and space.
   We have been changed to bring change to bring change
   God, we want to live it loud enough to shake the nations in Your name.

4. Bringing the hopes of every nation; Bringing the art of every ly;
   Shape a circle ever wider And a people ever free.
   We have been saved; gonna shout about the Savior!
   We have been found; We’re gonna turn every stone.

5. Draw together at one table All the human family;
   Dare to dream the vision promised Sprung from seed of what has been.
   We have been changed to bring change to bring change
   We have been changed to bring change to bring change

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Online at: http://www.musicatmars.com (Songs we sing)

©2003 AARONieq Music

©2003 AARONieq Music

by Delores Dufner, OSB

Aaron Neiquist
You can be anybody that you want to be you can love whom-

You can travel any country where your heart

ever you will

You can live by your

leads and know I will love you still

oo oo

oo oo

oo
self you can gather friends around you can choose one special one.

And the only measure of your words and your deeds will be the love you leave behind when you're gone.

Some girls grow up strong and
S 55

accel.

oo oo oo

A 55

accel.

chil - dren and some ne-ver do

T

you can dream all the day ne- ver

B

all the day ne- ver

S 61

reach - ing the end. of ev - ry thing pos - si - ble for you

A

Don't be

T

reach - ing the end. of ev - ry thing pos - si - ble for you

B

reach - ing the end. of ev - ry thing pos - si - ble for you

S 67

rat-tled by names by taunts and games

A

seek out

T

rat-tled by names by taunts and games But seek out spir - its

B

rat-tled by names by taunts and games seek out
spirits true oo oo oo oo they will
true if you give your friends the best part of your self they will
bring the same back to you You can be any body that you
want to be. You can love whom ever you will You can
travel any country where your heart leads
and know I will love you
still
You can live by yourself you can gather friends around
and
still
still
still
gather friends around
gather friends around
gather friends around
choose one special one
And the only measure of your
Words and your deeds will be the love you leave behind when you're gone.

Oh the love you leave behind when you're gone.

Love you leave behind when you're gone.

Love you leave behind when you're gone.
How To Send a Message to Sing a New Song

Whether or not your entire congregation or community is physically present at Sing a New Song a message from you can be! Reconciling churches, communities, campus ministries, individuals and groups are invited to submit videos (and written messages) to RMN. We will show your video (or display your message) at Sing a New Song so the fullness of our movement can be felt at our gathering with MFSA in Ohio. Below are some steps to frame your video or message. Deadline for submission is July 1, 2011. Videos can be up to 2 minutes in length and written messages must be 400 words or less. Send all videos and messages to RMN c/o James Dalton (james@rmnetwork.org and 3801 N. Keeler Ave, Chicago, IL 60641).

**Step 1: Gather Your Thoughts**

Think about what message your church/community/group or you want to share with the movement. Your message must be brief so it’s good identify the most important points. Paint a picture with your words of the hope you have to offer.

Some elements to include are:

- church/community/group/your name
- location and annual conference
- ways you are singing a new song
- one ministry your church or community is engaged in that paints of picture of who you are and who we’re called to be as a movement and church
- your message to the movement – is it a word of thanks? challenge? encouragement?

**Step 2: Write it Out**

Literally write out your message, get it all out on paper. This gives you a chance to make sure you hit all the talking points you wanted to share. Writing your message down also helps you create a script if you are sending a video.

**Step 3: Share it with Friend**

It’s always best to have another person see your message. Have them read it to you, our message always sounds different coming through another person’s voice – did you hear what you meant to say? Have your pastor(s), lay leaders, or Reconciling committee read the message coming from your church/community group.

**Step 4: Final Product**

Now that you’ve sketched out what you want to say in your message it’s time to put it all together into a final product.

**For video messages:** You will need a digital video camera or web cam. If the size of your group is more than 10 people a hand held video camera would be a better option. Remember to record in a well light room, speak loud and clear. After you have recorded the video you will need to load the video onto your computer so that you can edit and upload. For a list of resources on how to capture, edit and upload your video visit www.sans2011.org/send-a-message

**For written messages:** Gather all of your notes, edits, revisions, and comments from friends. Type up your story in Microsoft Word or type it directly into the body of an email. Remember that a written message must be 400 words or less, so check your word count and make the necessary corrections to stay within the word limit.

**Step 5: Send it to RMN**

Messages for Sing a New Song must be submitted by July 1, 2011 via postal mail, email or fax.

**For video messages:**
- post to internet: Upload to Youtube.com or Vimeo.com, then either email a link to your video to james@rmnetwork.org (subject line should include “[Sing A New Song Message]”) or tag your video as “sans2011”.
- mail: You can also mail a CD or DVD to Reconciling Ministries Network c/o James Dalton 3801 N. Keeler Ave Chicago, IL 60641

**For written messages:**
- email: james@rmnetwork.org (please attach a word document or include your message in the body of your email and the subject line should include “[Sing A New Song Message]”) or fax: 773-736-5475
- mail: Reconciling Ministries Network c/o James Dalton 3801 N. Keeler Ave Chicago, IL 60641
Many Ways to Sing a New Song

There are many ways to actively participate in the Reconciling Ministries in your church, neighborhood, Annual Conference, and even the Global United Methodist Connection. One of the most important ways to sing a new song is to find new voices with whom to sing. RMN will help you connect with both Reconciling United Methodists and congregations as well as allies like MFSa (Methodist Federation for Social Action) and GCORR (General Commission for Religion and Race). Working in partnership with these communities will deepen and reinvigorate your community’s understanding and commitment to full inclusion. Read more for specific ways to get involved.

Sing a New Song Event, August 2011:

Attend: Individuals in your community can connect personally and powerfully with the national movement by attending Sing a New Song, a national gathering hosted by RMN and the Methodist Federation for Social Action. At Sing a New Song, we will worship, learn, and celebrate together. To learn more about this incredible event, visit the event webpage at www.sans2011.org.

Send greetings: Whether or not your entire community attends Sing a New Song, you can be present by sending a greeting! RMN is accepting video or written greetings from all Reconciling Communities and individuals to share with the gathered movement at Sing a New Song. Videos should be less than 2 minutes and written messages less than 400 words; deadline for submission is July 1, 2011. Send all greetings to RMN c/o James Dalton (james@rmnetwork.org and 3801 N. Keeler Ave, Chicago, IL 60641). More information about this video project can also be obtained by emailing James.

In the Global United Methodist Connection

Assemble a volunteer team: People are needed to provide hospitality, track legislative progress, participate in witnesses, translate, and support delegates in Tampa Florida from April 22 – May 7, 2012.

Break Bread Together with United Methodists in Central Conferences: As our denomination wrestles with the question, “what does it mean to be a world-wide church?” RMN is committed to (1) supporting existing LGBTQ ministries in Africa, (2) building relationships with Central Conference students attending school in the US, and (3) assessing and strengthening partner relationships already established in various annual conferences and congregations. You can help. If your church (or any members) maintain central conference relationships; if you know anyone who is fluent in French or Portuguese (the two most used languages in our church after English); if you live near a United Methodist College or seminary and would reach out to students; if you know someone passionate about participating in or funding this work, contact us at BreakingBread@rmnetwork.org.

In Your Annual Conference

Spring 2011: The best way for individuals and congregations to work for inclusion in your Annual Conference is through the Called to Witness: Believe Out Loud Together campaign and partnership with MFSA Chapters. This year, teams are planning training events and Annual Conference actions in 93% of the Annual Conferences in the United States. To learn about actions your regional area, visit http://www.rmnwitness.org/jurisdictional-organizers.html and contact your Jurisdictional Organizer (JO).
JO’s are active coaches and trainers assigned to a few annual conferences, they will be thrilled to tell you about upcoming events, team meetings and other actions being planned in your area.

**Fall and Winter 2011:** Connect with your Annual Conference’s Delegation to General Conference through Called to Witness. Two trained RUMs and storytellers will meet with every single delegate from a US Annual Conference to tell their stories and speak up for full inclusion.

**In Your Community:**

**In Your Neighborhood or City:** Many junior and senior high schools have formed GSA – gay-straight alliance – clubs or other support groups for LGBT teens, their friends, and children from LGBT families. Your church could sponsor a social event, host an educational forum, or show up at school board or PTA meetings should opposition arise to these important groups. Pride parades and events are another excellent opportunity for your congregation to show your support of local LGBT persons and proclaim that God’s love knows no boundaries of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Sponsor a community discussion or film screening on issues about poverty, human rights, immigration, labor issues. These issues affect LGBT communities as well, and our mutual concern builds a world of justice and inclusion. To explore some of these important issues, team up with your Annual Conference MFSA Chapter who will have other legislative priorities and powerful resources for your congregation. Contact information is available through the national MFSA office at [www.mfsaweb.org](http://www.mfsaweb.org) or by calling (202)546-8806.

**In Your Community:** One of the best ways to get connected is to form a Reconciling Committee, or include intentional inclusion of LGBT persons in the work of your evangelism or welcoming committee. If your church already has an active Reconciling Committee, consider including work about racism, immigration and other facets of our humanity which are too often used to divide people rather than celebrate the beauty of God’s creation. An excellent four week study to initiate this work is online and free at [www.Rethinkinclusion.org](http://www.Rethinkinclusion.org). The United Methodist General Commission for Religion and Race also offers several excellent studies and videos at [www.gcorr.org](http://www.gcorr.org) (choose Education and Resources).

**As Individual Members:** When individuals sign up as Reconciling United Methodists (RUMs), they become part of a community around the world of people who take scripture seriously, care passionately about God’s will, and seek for the church to conform to Jesus Christ’s ministry of hospitality and radical inclusion. But signing up as a Reconciling United Methodist brings tangible benefits as well! RUMs can opt-in to a twice monthly email that includes information about upcoming reconciling events, excellent articles, announcements of new Reconciling Communities, and invites additional participation. RUMs also receive mailings each year informing them of important opportunities, and are automatically subscribed to the quarterly *Katalyst*, a newsletter with in-depth editorials and stories about the progress and upcoming plans in the movement for full inclusion of all persons.