United Methodists of Color for a Fully Inclusive Church - History

UMOC was founded in 2000, at a historic gathering of United Methodist people of color. The event was historic because it represented the first gathering across racial and ethnic lines for the purpose of engaging the subject of heterosexism and homophobia in Christianity and the United Methodist Church -- the thorniest issues facing the church. These dialogues on the common grounds of inclusivity and diversity culminated in a statement entitled United Methodists of Color For A Fully Inclusive Church. In the following months, the statement was widely distributed and supported by United Methodists of Color throughout the United States and the Philippines.

The statement, and the organizing that flowered from it, have served as a model for similar organizing among progressive people of color in other mainline Protestant denominations.

The declaration was historic because of the wide range of racial-ethnic communities represented in the participating signatories. People were invited to identify the multiplicity of cultural identities. The historic nature of the declaration and its wide ranging support by United Methodists represented the emergence of a new way of advocating for full inclusion and full justice in the church.

We stand prophetically as a people of color movement in the church, calling the denomination to embrace the multicultural realities of our society and our world. The days of anemic or paltry diversity in the church are over. If the church is to be a vibrant instrument of God's love, faithful to the justice of Jesus, then it must be a place that welcomes all.

United Methodists of Color for a Fully Inclusive Church (UMOC)

UMOC is the progressive, multiracial and multiethnic caucus for true diversity in the United Methodist Church.

UMOC is rooted in the experiences of people of color in the United Methodist church.

UMOC is dedicated to bridging the movements to eradicate all forms of oppression and discrimination in the church.

UMOC is committed to preaching God's Gospel of true liberation in the United Methodist church.

UMOC is committed to creating true diversity in the United Methodist Church.

UMOC stands in the crossroads of the here and now of justice in the church.

UMOC works to build a church that is anti-racist, anti-classist, anti-heterosexist, and anti-colonialist.

UMOC seeks to create ways to build a truly diverse and multicultural denomination for the glory of God and reflecting the wonder of God's creation.
RESOURCE LIST

BOOKS

Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza by Gloria Anzaldúa
Aunt Lute Books (1987)
Book cover Image

Respecting the Soul: Daily Reflections for Black Lesbians and Gays
by Keith Boykin
Book cover Image

One More River to Cross: Black and Gay in America
by Keith Boykin
Book cover Image

Sexuality and the Black Church: A Womanist Perspective
by Kelly Brown Douglas
Book cover Image

Black Men on Race, Gender, and Sexuality: A Critical Reader
by Devon W. Carbado (Editor)
Book cover Image

A Whosoever Church: Welcoming Lesbians and Gay Men into African American Congregations
Edited by Gary David Comstock
Published by John Knox Press
ISBN: 0664222803

The interviews with African American religious leaders that make up this book amount to a conversation of interest to those concerned with the church as a welcoming community as well as those interested in current discussion of various denominations’ stances regarding gay and lesbian members. A who’s who of African American leaders from a variety of denominations addressing how to welcome lesbians and gay men into African American congregations.

These conversations have much to teach all the churches. Open-hearted readers stand to be touched and possibly changed.

Galilean Journey: The Mexican-American Promise
by Virgilio P. Elizondo

Caminemos Con Jesús: Toward a Hispanic/Latino Theology of Accompaniment
by Roberto S. Goizueta
Nuestras Hijas y Nuestros Hijos

Nuestras Hijas y Nuestros Hijos constituye una buena fuente de información, para padres que tratan de formar una buena relación con un hijo(a) que salió del "closet." Ahora PFLAG ofrece este panfleto en español. Nuestras Hijas y Nuestros Hijos responderá a muchas de las preguntas, que pueda tener usted, acerca de la presencia de un hijo o hija gay. También incluye una lista de publicaciones y de organizaciones que le puedan ser de ayuda.

A popular publication from PFLAG, Our Daughters And Sons is a must-read for parents who are forming new and honest relationships with a son or daughter who has come out them. Now, PFLAG is offering this essential publication translated into Spanish. Nuestras Hijas y Nuestros Hijos answers several of the most commonly-asked questions about having a gay child. Also includes a resource list of publications and organizations. ¡Solicita una copia hoy mismo! Order a copy today!

1-9 $1.90/each 10-35 $1.40/each
36-99 $1.10/each 100+ $1.00/each

Contacte/: Contact:

PFLAG
1726 M Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036
202/467-8180
www.pflag.org
Book cover image
Jesus Is My Uncle: Christology from a Hispanic Perspective
by Luis G. Pedraja

The Ties That Bind: African American and Hispanic American/Latino/a Theology in Dialogue
by Anthony B. Pinn, Benjamin Valentin (Editors)

Just a Sister Away: A Womanist Vision of Women’s Relationships in the Bible
by Renita J. Weems

Lectionary / Worship Resources

Global Praise 1 Songbook ISBN: 189056902X
Global Praise 2 Songbook ISBN: 1890569224

The Global Praise Series includes old and new Christian songs from around the world with simple, innovative, and refreshing musical settings. Use them to enrich any worship or fellowship setting. The Program and Resource Book contains introductory articles, programs, workshops, worship resources, and liturgies for use with congregations to introduce the concept of global praise. *Program and Resource Book.

VIDEO

All God’s Children

All God's Children presents a political, social, and religious analysis of sexual orientation within the context of the traditional African-American values of freedom, inclusion, and the Christian love ethic. Through the voices of politicians, religious leaders, academics, family members, and activists, All God's Children vividly illustrates the human toll exacted upon society by the unspoken stigmatization and alienation of lesbians and gay men. Respected religious and political leaders, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rev. James Forbes, Rev. Carol L. Murray, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Senator Carol Moseley-Braun, Mayor Ken Reeves, and Cornel West call for spiritual reconciliation and a commitment to equal rights and social justice for all people.

Available from
Woman Vision
3570 Clay St.
San Francisco, CA 94118
Phone: 1-800-343-5540

De Colores

Lesbianas y gays Latinos:
Historias de Fuerza, Familia y Amor
Lesbian and Gay Latinos:
Stories of Strength, Family & Love
De Colores es un documental bilingüe de 28 minutos mostrando como las familias y comunidades latinas están reemplazando la homofobia con la tolerancia y el amor. A través de historias personales aprendemos como familias rompen barreras culturales y como el amor siempre prevalece.

De Colores is a bilingual 28-minutes documentary about how Latino families are replacing the deep roots of homophobia with the even deeper roots of love and tolerance. Through moving personal stories we learn about how families are breaking cultural barriers and how love always prevails.

Available from
Woman Vision
3570 Clay St.
San Francisco, CA 94118
Phone: 1- 800-343-5540

The following are a list of groups UMOC solidarity groups. They are organizations working to create a truly diverse United Methodist church.

**Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR)**
Rev. Tyrone Gordon
National Chairperson of BMCR
e-mail: bmcr@bmcr-umc.org

**MARCHA**
Metodistas Associados Representando la Causa de Hispano-Americanos
(United Methodist Hispanic American Caucus)
Mary Silva
Executive Director
310/944-0639
310/944-9914 fax

**Methodist Federation For Social Action (MFSA)**
Rev. Kathryn Johnson
Executive Director
212 East Capitol Street NE
Washington, DC 20003
202/546-8806
202/546-6811 fax
e-mail: mfsa@olg.com

**National Federation of Asian American United Methodists (NFAAUM)**
Inday Day
Executive Director
e-mail: indayday01@aol.com
Rev. Mark A. Nakagawa, Chair
e-mail: revmmtn@compuserve.com

**Native American International Caucus of The United Methodist Church**
Rev. Alvin B. Deer
Executive Director
Oklahoma City, OK
Pacific Islander National Caucus of United Methodists
Sione Motu Ahala
Executive Director
951 E. Philadelphia St.
Pomona, CA 91766
Co-Presidents
Eddie Kelemen
Pita Lauti
e-mail: tgl@gte.net

Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN)
Rev. Troy Plummer
Executive Director
3801 N. Keeler Avenue
Chicago, IL 60641
e-mail: info@rmnetwork.org
World Wide Web: www.RMNetwork.org