

PRESS RELEASE

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Historic LGBTQ+ Church Leaders to Celebrate 50 Years of Advocacy

Rolling The Stone Away: Generations of Love & Justice Conference in St. Louis, Oct. 31-Nov 2, 2017, will honor our LGBTQ+ history and examine current work of the movement.

St. Louis The *Rolling The Stone Away* Conference in St. Louis, Oct. 31-Nov. 2, 2017, will bring together LGBTQ+ Christian leaders in many organizations including Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Metropolitan Community Churches, and United Church of Christ communities to share stories and celebrate. For over 50 years, LGBTQ+ faith leaders have been breaking ground for full equality in churches through relentless commitments and often painful sacrifices. These LGBTQ+ Christian movements have had--and continue to have--a profound impact upon religious and social institutions in the U.S. This conference will explore the way faith communities helped to shape public awareness of HIV/AIDS, led the way for same-sex marriage and adoption, and have contributed theologically over many areas of religious scholarship.

"This is like a roll call in Heaven! Rev. Troy Perry--founder of MCC, Rev. Carter Heyward--one of the first female Episcopal priests, Bishop Carl Bean--founder of Unity Fellowship, Bishop Gene Robinson--first openly gay Episcopal bishop, Mel White--founder of Soul Force, and Rev. Dr. Irene Monroe--scholar and advocate, are just a few of the movers and shakers who will be present," said Mark Bowman, Conference Coordinator. "This conference is a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet all of these Christian LGBTQ+ faith leaders in one place. Sign up now to guarantee your spot."

"*Rolling the Stone Away* is bringing together the largest and most diverse coalition of Queer Christian groups ever assembled," Bowman notes. "The energy, spirit and passion growing around this gathering are contagious." The planning for this once in a lifetime conference is being carried out by an ecumenical planning team representing 13 different LGBTQ+ organizations.

Dozens of elders, saints, prophets, and today's leading activists have already accepted the invitation to participate in the *Rolling the Stone Away* gathering while more will be invited. Everyone is welcome to attend the conference and participate in the formal presentations and informal conversations about our history and the future of our movements for love and justice.

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Rolling the Stone Away will be held at the Marriott St. Louis Airport on October 31 - November 2. A complete list of invited guests, sponsorship opportunities and registration information can be found at: www.rollingthestoneaway.org