

Keynote: **The Center Holds:  
The Bible, Love and Marriage**

*Carolyn Pressler and Sue Ebbers*

**Friday, June 5, 2009 10:00am – 11:30am**

Sue Ebbers and Carolyn Pressler will challenge the notion, beloved of the religious right, that there is one biblical view of marriage and family, and ask: given the absence of such a “biblical view” what help can we find in the Bible for just and loving understandings of marriage? Finally, Pressler and Ebbers will draw on the rich well of Biblical texts, and their own experience as partners, colleagues, and theologians, to reflect on keeping relationships centered and growing on the journey toward marriage equality.

Carolyn Pressler has her M.Div. from Wesley Theological Seminary and her Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. She is the Harry C. Piper Professor of Biblical Interpretation at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. Her publications as author and co-editor include: *Joshua, Judges and Ruth* (Westminster Bible Companion), *Engaging the Bible in a Gendered World*, and *The View of Women Found in the Deuteronomistic Family Laws*, as well as numerous articles, including “*The Biblical View of Marriage?*”

Sue Ebbers has her M.Div. from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, M.S. from Drake University, and M.A. from University of Wisconsin, Madison. She is Professor of Theological Bibliography and Director of the Library at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities. As the first voluntarily out LGBT person at United Theological Seminary, she joined the struggle for LGBT rights in the late 1970’s.

Carolyn and Sue have been truly (if not legally) married for over twelve years.

**ONA/LGBT and Allies Choir**  
*Directed by David Lohman*

♪ Those interested in singing will be expected to attend both days beginning with a Thursday, June 4 rehearsal at 5:00pm. The choir will sing for the vespers at 8:30pm on Thursday, June 4 and for closing worship at 11:30am on Friday, June 5. ♪

**Gathering Schedule:**

**Thursday, June 4 – Main Building**

**4:30 – 6:30pm – Gathering Registration**

5:00 **Choir Rehearsal** ♪

6:00 **Social time** - appetizers

6:30 **Catered Dinner** (pasta buffet)  
Community Building, MN Chapter, LGBT Coalition UCC, and Focused Sharing on **Allies** as the “Greatest of These”

8:30 **Vespers** with ONA/LGBT and Allies Choir

9:00 **Informal Social Time** (O’Connell’s Pub)

**Friday, June 5 – Main Building**

**8-10:00am Registration and Coffee**

8:30 **Continental Breakfast**  
Community Building, ONA Consultants, ONA /LGBT Team, and Focused Sharing on **Affirmation** as the “Greatest of These”

10:00 **Keynote Address and Dialogue**  
**The Centers Holds:**

**The Bible, Love and Marriage**

Carolyn Pressler and Sue Ebbers

11:30 **Closing Worship**

with ONA/LGBT and Allies Choir

Noon **Catered Lunch** (deli buffet)

1:00 pm **Adjourn**

**Special welcome is extended to:**

*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender folks;  
Family and friends; Allies; Young adults and adults;  
Lay persons and clergy; representatives of ONA churches and of churches considering the ONA process; and others seeking fellowship and support among and with the UCC LGBT community.*

**A Minnesota Open and Affirming  
(ONA) Gathering**  
*“The Greatest of These is Love”*

Everyone is invited to attend this second Minnesota ONA Gathering. Please join us in celebrating God’s love within our ONA/LGBT and Allies community.

We will meet on the campus of the College of St. Benedict, preceding the Minnesota Conference Annual Meeting. The Gathering begins with dinner on Thursday, June 4 and concludes over lunch on Friday, June 5. Accommodations are available for single or double rooms for Thursday, June 4. Those registering for lodging for both the Gathering and the Annual Meeting will be able to stay in the same room if requested. In order to allow for maximum flexibility, one-day or two-day registration, as well as meals, are optional, although you are encouraged to participate in group meals for community building.

**Costs:**

- **Registration** - Both Days: \$15; Thursday evening only: \$5; Friday morning only: \$12
- **Meals**- Thursday Dinner: \$13; Friday Continental Breakfast: \$6; Friday Lunch: \$12
- **Lodging** – Single room: \$43; Double Room \$33 (assigned roommate)

**Registration Information:**

Your registration and check or money order must be **received by May 29, 2009**. Full refunds will be made if any events are cancelled.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Dorm keys will be available at the **Gorecki Center** registration area from **4:00-10:00 p.m.** on Thursday, June 4. Gathering registration will be held at Main Building, (as will all sessions on Thursday and Friday) where you will receive name tags and tickets to meals.

Visitor parking is available near Main Building in Lot #1. (See Campus Map). Main Building is handicap accessible. Enter building at street level on College Avenue and take elevator to second level.

## Registration Form

A Minnesota Open and Affirming Gathering  
June 4-5, 2009

**Registration must be received by May 29, 2009.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(last) (first) (mi)

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(street)

(city) (state) (zip)

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I want to **register** for:

\_\_\_\_\_ both days (\$15)

\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday Evening, June 4 only (\$5)

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday Morning, June 5 only (\$12)

### Meals:

\_\_\_\_\_ Thursday, June 4 dinner (\$13)

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday, June 5 breakfast (\$6)

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday June 5 lunch (\$12)

### Lodging:

\_\_\_\_\_ Reserve a single room for June 4 - (\$43)

\_\_\_\_\_ Reserve a double room for June 4 - (\$33)

Name of preferred roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have registered separately for lodging for  
Annual Meeting

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED

*(check or money order only)*

Please send your registration/check to:

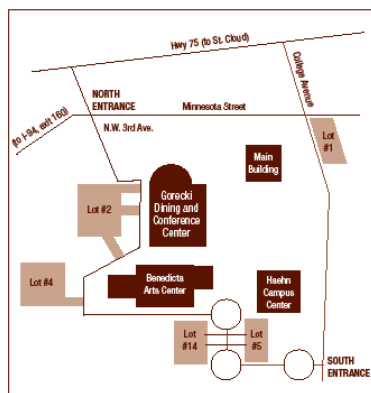
**Coalition for LGBT Concerns-MN Chapter**

**Attn: Steve Strickler**

**1107 6<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Rochester, MN 55901**

Make a copy of this information before sending the registration form in. Please contact Steve at Strickler.Stephen@mayo.edu if you have any questions.

GORECKI DINING AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
AT THE COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT



### MN Conference ONA/LGBT Team

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## A Minnesota Open and Affirming (ONA) Gathering

*“The Greatest of These is Love”*

Carolyn Pressler and Sue Ebbers

*Keynote:*

*The Center Holds:*

*The Bible, Love and Marriage*

*Sponsored by:*

**The Minnesota Chapter**

The UCC  
**Coalition**  
for LGBT  
Concerns



God's Extravagant Welcome

**The ONA/LGBT Team  
of the Minnesota Conference UCC**



at

**The College of St. Benedict**

**June 4-5, 2009**