

**Robbinsdale United Church of Christ:
Celebrating 20 years of being an Open and Affirming Congregation**

In June of 1990, RUCC engaged in a careful and deliberate process of study and prayer on the way to becoming an ONA congregation. In our statement, we include gay, lesbian and bisexual people as full leaders, members, and ministers of RUCC. Over the last 20 years we have been moved through some extraordinary relationships to not only affirm folks of all sexual orientations, but also sought ways to nurture the love that people share no matter one's attraction or identity. On the occasion of 20 years, the Coordinating Council is supporting an educational series and expansion of our statement to include Transgender people as well. We hope that members of RUCC and all Minnesota Conference UCC churches can come to one or all of the events in this wonderful series. The events will be led by gifted facilitator, Marc Blakesley, and will culminate in a congregational meeting and vote about expanding our statement to include the "T" in GLBT. Everyone is welcome.

**Sunday, April 11, 11:30-1:00pm:
Understanding Transgender**

This session will include lunch as we discuss our understandings and possible misunderstandings of people who identify as transgender. Gathered around tables is a sacred place to have any conversation. We will define common terms and explore why this issue is important in the life of the church.

**Sunday, April 18, 8:30-9:30am:
Acceptance: Theologically and Culturally**

Using sacred texts and cultural images from around the world, we will explore what is really said in relationship to the inclusion of transgender individuals in the life of the faith community. Bring your bibles and questions, as we explore together.

Friday, April 23, 7:00-9:00pm: Call Me Malcom

During this session we will watch an amazing film, "Call Me Malcom." This is a story of the human spirit and God's spirit. Malcolm shares his own story, while we meet and get a glimpse into the lives of other real people who identify as transgender. The movie is approximately one and half hours. We will allow time for discussion after the viewing.

Tuesday, April 27, 7:30-9:00pm: Being a Truly Welcoming Church

Our final session will focus on evaluating our current environment in which 'do' church. We will ask questions about what we may or may not do that is gender exclusive and how that effects our ability to fully welcome members of the transgender community. This session will allow us to begin drafting language to added 'gender expression' to the current ONA statement.

**Congregational Meeting & Vote to affirm and expand our Open and Affirming statement:
May 16, 2010 - Following Worship**

ONA Celebration Sunday

May 23, 2010 - Yep, its Pentecost.

Guest Preacher: Barbara Satin

Let's celebrate the fabulous diversity of God's Creation at Robbinsdale United Church of Christ!