

Speak Out Community Forum

Hosted by: Truth Center MCC
Celebrating our 6th Year Anniversary



Featured Guest Bishop Yvette Flunder

- Topic:** Building a Grass Root LGBT Coalition to Reclaim an Oppressed Community
- Occasion:** Kickoff of Quarterly Community Forums
- Host:** Truth Center MCC
- Location:** Georgia Citizens Coalition on Hunger Building
9 Gammon Avenue, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30315
- Date & Time:** August 18, 2007 @ 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- Invitees:** Elder Jim Mitulski (Regional Elder MCC), Rev. Leevahn Smith, MDiv (Truth Center MCC), Reverend Dr. Kathi Martin, Pastor Troy Sanders (Preach2me.com), Rev. Jay Neely (ICCC), Rev. Ike Parker (UCC), Rev. Renee Dubose (Our Hope MCC), Rev. Paul Graetz (First MCC of Atlanta); Rev. Meredith (Tabernacle Baptist Church), Rev. Paul Turner (Gentle Spirit Church), Elder Antonio Jones (Unity Fellowship Church), Reverend Tess (Christ Covenant), Rev. Kenneth Samuels (Victory), Bishop James H. Morton (New Beginning), Rev. Will Horne (Power Central Christian Church), Ms. Zandra Conway (ITLA & NBJC), Julie Wood (HRC), Stephon Collins, L.O.V.E Coalition, Edward Gray (Youth Pride), Kathy Colbenson (Chris Kids), Mr. Lance Helm (PFLAG), Mary Ann Adams (ZAMI)
- Theme:** A time to keep silence and a time to speak (Ecclesiastes 3:7b)
- Proposition:** For too long have we kept silence while religious fundamentalists have spoken out in condemnation of the LGBT community. We are indeed at that point in time where we must speak out strategically delivering the real message of truth to those who have only heard the message of condemnation. We must start a grass root movement that unites our entire community and motivates us to reclaim our citizenship in society politically, socially, economically and most of all spiritually.

Participants are asked to please familiarize yourselves with the following topics for discussion.

- Ice Breaker:** What are you doing outside of your church to evangelize and spread the message of God's all-inclusive love?
- Question 1:** What ideals do you have for collectively coming together in order to strategize how we might bring the Good News to all of God's people outside the Church?
- Question 2: What can be done about the hate crimes being perpetrated hourly around the at home, in our nation and abroad and laws prohibiting us from the same civil and domestic liberties shared by society at-large?
- Question 3: Many members from the LGBT community of African descent do not see LGBT churches as being real churches. Could this be a reason for so many members of the LGBT community in general attending non-affirming preaching against homosexuals?
- Proposal 1: Set up a meeting with GLAAD to assist us with putting together a strategic plan that utilizes the media in all of its various formats to effectively get our message across.
- Proposal 2: Pool our resources together for advertisements announcing planned events. A recommendation is to plan an event every quarter, (i.e. concerts, conventions, revivals, exhibitions, block parties, sport leagues, brunches, rallies, etc.).