

MAY 13, 2019

RADICAL SOLIDARITY

IN OUR MOVEMENT FORWARD

INTRODUCTIONS



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ALSO JOINING US TODAY

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CAMERON OVERTON

YOU!



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

TOPICS TO COVER TODAY

What is Radical Solidarity?

Stories of Radical Solidarity

Responses to Survey on Radical Solidarity

Moving Forward in Radical Solidarity

POC+Q+T

**PEOPLE OF COLOR, QUEER, AND
TRANSGENDER PEOPLE**

WHY HAVE A WEBINAR

ON RADICAL SOLIDARITY?

WHAT IS RADICAL SOLIDARITY?

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Radical solidarity is essential aspect of Christian life. Jesus became one with humanity, taking on human flesh, and joining himself with the fate of humanity. Just as Jesus threw his live in with ours, so too are we called throw our lives in with one another. If allyship is a gift, radical solidarity is a responsibility rooted in our mutual connection and interdependence. Radical solidarity says that our lives are wrapped up in what happens to one another; what happens to you also happens to me. When we live in true solidarity, those who exist at the privileged center are called to move to the margins, not the other way around. It was here, on the margins, where Jesus started and gathered to build the Kin-dom.



THEMES

COMMUNITY

About how we live with and among each other

ALLYSHIP V. SOLIDARITY

Distinction in terms of responsibility and directionality

MUTUALITY AND INTERDEPENDENCE

Names the ways our lives are bound up in each other

ON AND OF THE MARGINS

Social and political element

STORIES OF RADICAL SOLIDARITY

Tell us about an experience you've had involving radical solidarity, or a lack thereof.

**CAMERON
OVERTON**

**REV. ALEX DA
SILVA SOUTO**

***WHAT ARE SOME
THINGS YOU NOTICE
IN EACH OF THESE STORIES?***

A photograph of a crowd of people at a protest or rally. Many people have their hands raised in the air. A rainbow flag is visible in the upper right corner. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue rectangle containing text.

SURVEY GOAL

The goal of this survey is to learn about the experiences people of color, queer*, and transgender (POC+Q+T) United Methodists (both lay and ordained) have in terms of radical solidarity.

SURVEY ON RADICAL SOLIDARITY

**SHARED
WITH 170
PEOPLE**

All POC+Q+T people who registered for the Our Movement Forward conference.

**TOTAL OF
48 REPLIES**

That gives us a response rate of around 28%.

**11
QUESTIONS**

Combination of open-ended, multiple choice, and check all that apply questions.

**OTHER
NOTES**

100% completion. Only one non-POC+Q+T respondent. Excluded from results.

PROFILE OF SAMPLE

92% Q: SOMETHING OTHER STRAIGHT

Lesbian (33%), Queer (25%), Gay (13%), Bisexual (10%), Pansexual (4%), Asexual (4%)

21% T: REPORTED NON-CIS IDENTITY

Genderqueer, gender non-conforming, nonbinary (17%), trans/transgender (8%).

Majority (54%) did not report cis- or trans- gender identity.

17% male-identified, 63% female-identified, 19% non-binary gender

21% POC: PEOPLE OF COLOR

Black (14%), Latinx (8%), Asian (4%), Biracial (4%), Middle Eastern (2%).

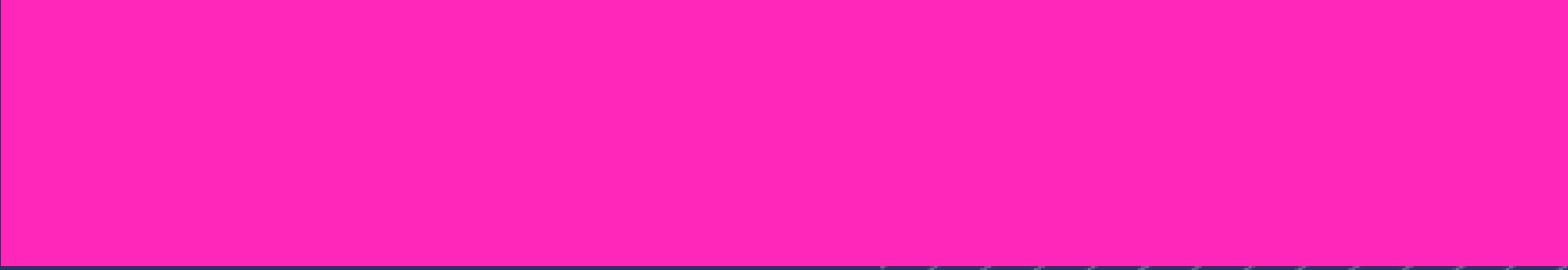
Remaining majority (52%) identified as white.

SHARED RANGE OF OTHER IDENTITIES

ability, geography, political commitments, family construction, economic status, age, etc.

***WHAT HAS YOUR
EXPERIENCE BEEN LIKE
WITH ALLIES?***





***WHAT DO WE AS A CHURCH
MOVEMENT NEED TO DO IN ORDER TO
LIVE OUT OUR COMMITMENT TO
RADICAL SOLIDARITY WITH
POC+Q+T PEOPLE?***

**BECOME MORE AWARE OF OUR
ACCESS TO PRIVILEGE, 58%**

**LEVERAGE OUR ACCESS TO
PRIVILEGE, 60%**

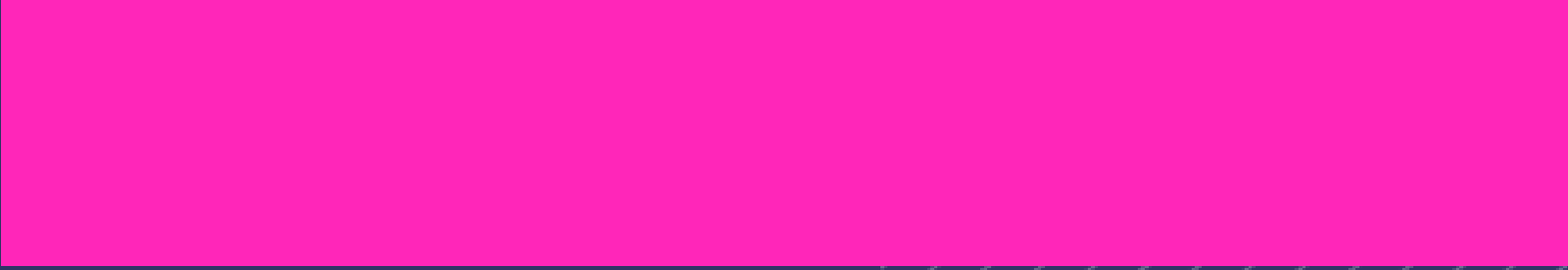
**LEARN HOW TO BE HELD
ACCOUNTABLE, RECEIVE CRITICAL
FEEDBACK, AND APOLOGIZE WHEN
YOU MAKE MISTAKES, 83%**

**SEE MORE MODELS OF
COLLABORATIVE DECISION-
MAKING AMONG POC+Q+T, 75%**

***WHAT DO WE AS A CHURCH MOVEMENT NEED TO
DO IN ORDER TO LIVE OUT OUR COMMITMENT TO
RADICAL SOLIDARITY WITH POC+Q+T PEOPLE?***

**DO WORK ON HOW TO DIVEST OURSELVES FROM
WHITE SUPREMACY, PATRIARCHY, HETEROSEXISM,
AND TRANSPHOBIA, 85%**

**GAIN A DEEPER AWARENESS OF HOW RESENTMENTS,
PAIN, COLLECTIVE HISTORIES OF EXCLUSION ARE
DESTRUCTIVELY CREATING COMPETITION AMONG US,
81%**



***WHAT ARE SOME CONCRETE WAYS
THAT YOU HOPE THIS CONFERENCE
WILL ENABLE YOU TO FEEL TRULY
SUPPORTED IN A CHURCH MOVEMENT
ROOTED IN RADICAL SOLIDARITY?***

CONCRETE FORMS OF SUPPORT

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I need to see that people who are allies are passionate at creating change even when it doesn't affect them.

I want us to begin to coalesce around a new denominational model where we are uncompromising in our commitment to combat oppression and discrimination. I think we have a unique opportunity to create a new thing based on gospel principles.

I'm honestly doubtful that I will feel "truly supported" until the UMC decides I deserve all the same rights as my heterosexual friends and colleagues.

CONCRETE FORMS OF SUPPORT

66

No more calls for unity with oppressive people. We can exist within the system in order to resist it, but “unity” is a veiled term that implies that queer folks are the problem and that we should agree to get along with those who don’t want us in the church. We need to create a new thing.

Including open conversation about race.

I hope that we, as a collective, leave Minneapolis with a plan of action for building a new church movement/denomination. I will feel supported and hopeful if I leave with confidence that we are working together, with God, toward something new.

CONCRETE FORMS OF SUPPORT

6 [I want to] see a movement for radical solidarity but also a movement for radical organizing.

I hope this conference will offer ample space for dialogue -- real conversation that comes from the heart and speaks to our lived experiences. I hope that we not only have room to dream of a new way, but that we actually come away from it with some semblance of a plan

I hope to have space to tell my story.

Concrete ordination steps for queer candidates.

Gentleness, acknowledgement that we are all hurting, sincerity in not doing even more harm in this space



***HOW ARE YOU COMMITTING TO BE IN
RADICAL SOLIDARITY AS WE
CONTINUE TOGETHER IN THIS CHURCH
MOVEMENT TOGETHER?***

COMMITTING TO RADICAL SOLIDARITY

I will show up.

I am committed to examining my own racist and homophobic tendencies and hopefully not let them impact the way I treat others.

I'm committed to de-colonizing my bookshelf, & stepping back to listen when POC are speaking.

I will let go of some of my anger to move forward as one movement that has many people a part of it as well.

I am willing to travel to help with the movement, Hold gathering in local areas. I am willing to do whatever that is within my physical and emotional ability.



Radical solidarity is an ongoing process, never a completed goal. It is a communal and interpersonal journey we embark upon together, as we move toward grace-filled interdependence. It is characterized by: (1) Having an awareness of systemic and cultural power and privilege; understanding our political access to and the benefits we receive from these forms of power and privilege; acknowledging the ways in which some are relegated to the margins, denied human dignity and worth, and assumed to be inferior contributors to church and society (2) Taking action to resist the ways in which our most vulnerable siblings are targeted for exploitation, harms, and exclusion based on their social identities AND actively relinquishing our unearned systemic power and privilege . (3) Embodying an attitude of learning, listening, humility, and bold risk-taking.

*****RADICAL SOLIDARITY IS NEVER ROOTED IN PATERNALISM, PITY, OR GUILT-RIDDEN INACTION.*****