

ONA 201

Living into Your ONA Covenant
GATEWAY Convocation 2024

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Question:

We've voted, now
what do we do?

My Question To You:

What do you know, and/or understand, about the next steps after a congregation has been certified?

All next steps are
rooted in
Affirming
OUTLOUD!





AFFIRMING:

- The ONA Coalition sees “affirming” to mean strong, **public** evidence.
- Being publicly affirming of LGBTQIAN2S+ individuals mean **intentionally** and **actively** supporting and embracing their **identities**, **rights**, and **well-being**.

Here are some ways to demonstrate this affirmation:

1. *Educate Yourself:*

Learn about LGBTQIAN2S+ history, terminology, and issues to better understand the experiences and challenges faced by LGBTQIAN2S+ individuals.

Here are some ways to demonstrate this affirmation:

2. Use Inclusive Language:

Respect people's pronouns and gender identities. Use gender-neutral language whenever possible and avoid assumptions about someone's sexual orientation. Always ask and honor how the person identifies themselves.

Here are some ways to demonstrate this affirmation:

3. Advocate for LGBTQIAN2S+ Rights:

Support policies and legislation that promote equality and protect the rights of LGBTQIAN2S+ individuals, such as marriage equality, anti-discrimination laws, and transgender rights.

Here are some ways to demonstrate this affirmation:

4. ***Speak Out Against Homophobia and Transphobia:***

Challenge discriminatory attitudes and language when you encounter them. Stand up against prejudice and create a safe environment for LGBTQIAN2S+ individuals. Offer them opportunities to serve as planners and workers as lay or ordained persons within the church, and for special occasions or events.

Here are some ways to demonstrate this affirmation:

5. Support LGBTQIAN2S+ Organizations:

Contribute to or volunteer for organizations that provide support, resources, and advocacy for LGBTQIAN2S+ communities, such as The ONA Coalition. This can also include LGBTQIAN2S+ centers, youth organizations, or organizations fighting for LGBTQIAN2S+ rights.

Here are some ways to demonstrate this affirmation:

6. Amplify LGBTQIAN2S+ Voices:

Share and promote the stories, achievements, and perspectives of LGBTQIAN2S+ individuals. Use your platform, whether it's social media or personal interactions, to uplift their voices, and offer opportunities for them to share their voices.

Here are some ways to demonstrate this affirmation:

7. Be not just an Ally, but an Accomplice:

Show support and solidarity by attending LGBTQIAN2S+ events, Pride parades, rallies, officiating weddings, baby dedications, baptisms and having name change services/ceremonies for our Trans siblings.

Listen to and validate the experiences of LGBTQIAN2S+ individuals without centering the conversation on yourself.

Here are some ways to demonstrate this affirmation:

Remember, being **publicly affirming** of LGBTQIAN2S+ individuals is an **ongoing process** of **learning**, **growth**, and **accomplice-ship**. It is important to **respect and celebrate** the **diversity** within the LGBTQIAN2S+ community **and** to **continuously** strive for inclusivity and equality that is shown **out loud** in a **positive and supportive** loyalty to strong, overt validation, not a “welcoming” standpoint or the ‘hate the sin, love the sinner’ concept.

That is **not** acceptable.

**Is There
More?**

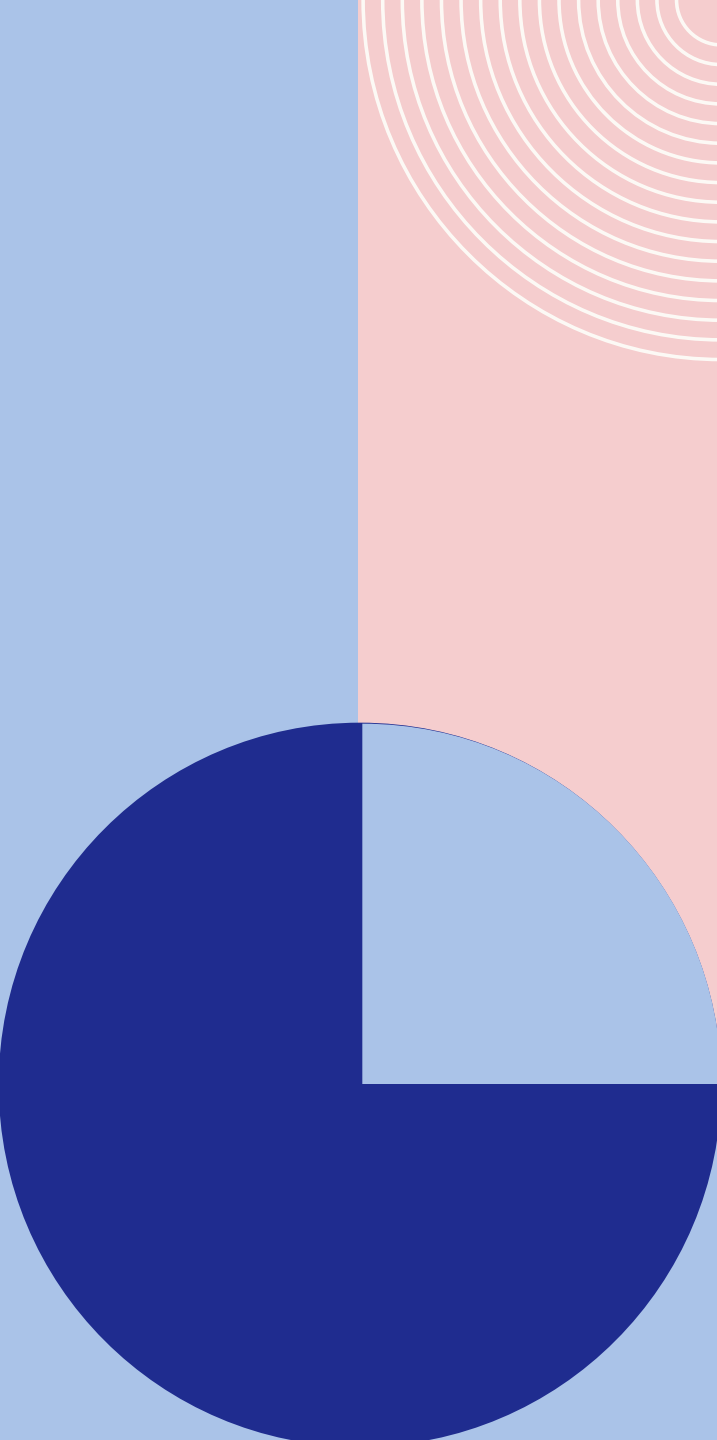


Why YES!

Living INTO:

**A vision for an
intersectional
ONA Movement**





**AN INTERSECTIONAL OPEN
AND AFFIRMING CHRISTIAN
MOVEMENT ENVISIONS
A COMMUNITY THAT
EMBRACES AND AFFIRMS
THE FULL DIVERSITY OF
HUMAN IDENTITIES AND
EXPERIENCES**



INTERSECTIONAL VISION

1. Inclusive Worship and Liturgy

Prioritize creating worship spaces that honor and celebrate the experiences and identities of all individuals

2. Intersectional Advocacy and Activism

Actively engage in advocacy work that addresses the intersecting forms of oppression

3. Pastoral Care and Support Networks

Prioritize providing affirming pastoral care and support for LGBTQIAN2S+ individuals and other marginalized groups

4. Education, Empowerment, Theological Exploration, and Dialogue

Promotes education and theological exploration that challenges biases and fosters understanding

5. Collaborative Partnerships

Actively seek to build collaborative partnerships with other social justice movements and organizations, interfaith communities and organizations that share a commitment to intersectionality and inclusion



INTERSECTIONAL VISION

6. Leadership and Representation

Prioritize the leadership and representation of marginalized individuals within Christian communities

7. Intersectional Theology

Develop and promote theologies that embrace intersectionality and challenge oppressive theological frameworks

8. Social Justice Advocacy

Actively engage in social justice advocacy, recognizing that issues of gender, sexuality, and identity intersect with other forms of systemic oppression

These examples illustrate a vision for an intersectional open and affirming Christian movement that embraces the principles of justice, inclusivity, and love. Such a movement would strive to create a community where all individuals are valued, affirmed, and empowered to live authentically and contribute to the flourishing of all.

Questions or Comments

THANK YOU!

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