

## Rolling the Stone Away Conference Call

Sylvia Rhue; Chris Paige; Neil Cazares-Thomas; Mark Wilson; Nancy Wilson; Robert Clement; Deborah Johnson  
June 15, 5:00 EST

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### Agenda:

**Opening Prayer/Reflection:** Rick opened in prayer after introductions at 5:16

### Introductions: (Mark) (15 mins.)

1. Name, location & organization or historical connection
  - a. Chris: they, them, Philly, UCC, Pres, CLOUT, UMC, most recently with TransFaith – organizer and founder
  - b. Neil – MCC currently serving a UCC congregation
  - c. Debra – Interlight Ministries in Santa Cruz, co-chair NGLTF, court case that set for LGBT inclusion to be a part of Civil Rights in CA
  - d. Robert – 1970 founded 1<sup>st</sup> gay church – church of the beloved disciple in East Coast
  - e. Sylvia – City of Refuge in Oakland, a part of MLK's welcoming committee, RCRC
  - f. Nancy – Found MCC when 22, was working with anti-war movement before that, part of MCC all adult life, 2<sup>nd</sup> Moderator, Bradenton
  - g. Mark he, him – Oakland – American Baptist – worked with anti-apartheid movement, liberation theology, one of the first black clergy to come out as in Baptist tradition
2. Where did your energy/passion come from?/ What do you want to be remembered for?
  - a. Neil – someone who lived in such a way that one felt able to be their full selves
  - b. Nancy – pioneer the possibly for LGBT people to be fully who they are
  - c. Bishop Clemet –
  - d. Chris – someone who offered intersectionality
  - e. Mark – dispel the myth that one cannot be a gay Baptist minister and as grandma to a lot of queer youth in Oakland
  - f. Debra – inspiring people to live authentic lives and build beloved community
  - g. Sylvia – as a relentless soldier for social justice

### Goals/schedule (Judith) (5 mins.)

Review document attached with goals and program outline. Any general questions on this?

### REFLECTIONS ON CONFERENCE (30 mins.)

1. Looking at the program outline—what excites you about this?
2. Where do you see yourself participating or contributing in some way? What is missing? What might you add?

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- a. **Nancy:** Including people from the 70s, this is an amazing opportunity to debrief those decades is a gift, haven't had the time to do that. Treasure as an experience of a lifetime with the few who would know this type of change. Others who have experienced the same loss, particularly in this time.
  - b. **Mark:** reconnecting with friends with whom we have worked, laughed together, cried together. Look forward to passing on stories – putting stories of people who are gone, a chance to tell them their stories
  - c. **Neil:** excited about meeting up with people have never met before, excited about seeing how two cultures (US and Britain) have been both similar and different during the movement)
  - d. **Bishop Clement:** reminisced on being in LA with Neil
  - e. **Debra:** not just nostalgic – being part of fundamental roots of the movement, meeting in churches or bar, not community centers etc.
  - f. **Chris:** Trepidation over event. What is exciting, reconnecting with elders, reconnecting with folks who helped them come out
  - g. **Nancy -- Missing:** 1. Interfaith movement – authentic interfaith; 2. Came to understand this is a global movement; 3. Class along with race and gender – class issues in our country and in our movement
  - h. **Neil:** Intersectionalities
  - i. **Mark:** Healing resentments/wounds, remembrance
  - j. **Debra:** Deep personal introspection. We didn't hatch here, we didn't just arrive, there were a lot of inner struggles, about our views about God, about sexuality, we would be remiss if we didn't take an opportunity to pull back the curtain and get raw and real to talk about where we started from – in an effort of also giving hope
  - k. **Chris:** Don't just gloss over some of the tensions – Trans\* women of color have always been involved. Trans\* issues are separate from race, and there is a lot of overlap, need to be named
  - l. **Debra:** Create an environment that doesn't mimic the cerebral, intellectual conferences, done in a manor that honors spirituality, music not attached to how we get there, but having a journey. That it isn't disjointed, that we feel something that is deeply transformational – not just another conference
  - m. **Mark:** Echo Debra's point – some of the unsung heros who didn't have the vocabulary, but queered music in a different way, created political noise in a different way. In the same way of Stonewall with drag performers
  - n. **Nancy:** sexual outlaws, sexual revolutionaries, embody that passion
3. **Anyone else you recommend to be an invited guest & presenter?**
- a. J Deacon
  - b. Craig Darling
  - c. Rebecca Vogel

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- d. John Winsride (sp?) Mennonite
- e. Valerie Spenser
- f. Marsha Stevens

### Specific place you want to participate in? Topic or decade?

- a. **Sylvia:** Engaging religious right, ex gays
- b. **Neil:** Queer theology, shifting persp. On marriage, becoming mainstream
- c. **Debra:** So many – place in floater range
- d. **Nancy** – floater
- e. **Mark** – Floater, youth of the 70s, AIDS/HIV, worship and the arts, underground culture, racism, queer youth, sex and driving the movement
- f. **Chris** – Gender and trans\*; younger voice
- g. **Debra** – Planning skills etc., don't need to be exclusively a participant, behind the scenes good too
- h. **Sylvia** – gave a recommendation for Debra to be involved

### Logistics (Lauren) (10 mins.)

Send Mark titles of your books in print or sale in bookstore.

Send Mark a childhood pic and some pics of early activism (with descriptions).

We will book travel and hotel for you—details coming in a few weeks.

- We will contact you
- In your invitation you will be covered for your travel
- Roommate – if you don't have a roommate

Like our page on Facebook and share with your friends!

Organizations to Expo – Shower of Stoles etc.

### CLOSING PRAYER/REFLECTION

The meeting was closed in prayer at 5:55