

## **Upcoming Zoom Webinar Conference to Focus on Performing LGBTQ+ Weddings**

**By Donald E. Messer**

Five years after the United States Supreme Court legalized same-gender marriages, many United Methodist clergy have yet to perform a wedding for a LGBTQ couple.

Even in regions where restrictions imposed by church rules have been waived, many clergy remain uninformed or uncomfortable about best practices in pre-marital counseling and wedding rituals.

Two leading Mountain Sky Area United Methodist clergy, Rev. Sharon Langfeldt and Rev. Angie Kotzmoyer, will lead a Zoom webinar entitled “Let’s Talk: LGBTQ+ Weddings” on July 15 at 10 am, aimed at overcoming these pastoral obstacles. Sponsored by the United Methodist Association of Retired Clergy and Friends (UMARC) and the Queer Clergy Caucus of the Mountain Sky Area of The United Methodist Church, interested laity and clergy can **register free** by contacting <https://form.jotform.com/201828746777167>

Langfeldt is senior pastor at Christ Church United Methodist in Denver and Kotzmoyer is the lead pastor at the Applewood Valley United Methodist Church in Golden, Colorado. Following their presentations, a panel will pose questions and share experiences.

“Hopefully, as the church becomes more inclusive and welcoming of all people,” says Rev. Harvey Martz, vice chair of the UMARC, “both clergy and laity will provide appropriate ceremonies and hospitality for LGBTQ couples and their families. Perhaps there is no better way to repent for past pastoral malpractice than to intentionally reach out to the LGBTQ community, acknowledging past sins, and instituting inclusive wedding policies in our local churches.”

During the forum, Richard Marsh, Chancellor for the Mountain Sky Conference, will share current legal interpretations of the United Methodist policy and practices regarding same gender weddings in local churches.

This breakthrough webinar is a first in endeavoring to update both laity and clergy on theologically appropriate ceremonies that meet the needs of LGBTQ persons and their families.

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