

**Oriented to Love:
People of Color-only Dialogue on Sexual Diversity
in the Body of Christ
Participant Application Form**

(updated 7/20)

This dialogue is open to POCs across all genders, sexual orientations, and theological convictions and will be crafted as a sacred space to honor and celebrate identity, engage in meaningful conversation, and deepen understanding. The two main requirements for participation in this dialogue are an open heart and a committed faith in Christ. We need the group to be as diverse—in terms of theology, sexual orientation, gender identity, and ethnicity—as it is small. Since this conversation will focus on how believers approach and understand sexual and gender diversity in the church, our shared faith in and reliance on Christ will bind us together and make our efforts more productive and long-lasting. [Learn more.](#)

**(PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL INFORMATION/APPLICATIONS
ARE KEPT COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL)**

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Birth date: _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

How did you learn about the dialogue? _____

What are the dates of the dialogue you are applying for? _____

If we are unable to accommodate you for this particular dialogue (because of balance, numbers, etc) are you interested in being contacted for a future dialogue where we may be able to accommodate you? (please indicate just one choice below)

- Yes, any other dialogue
- Yes, but only interested in a POC dialogue
- No

IDENTITY & FAMILY INFORMATION:

Ethnic identity _____

Gender identity (please include your pronouns) _____

Sexual orientation _____

Relationships status (check all that apply):

- Single
- Dating
- Celibate (*Celibacy means different things to different people, but for our purposes here we define it as a vocation one embraces—refraining from romantic/sexual relations in order to embrace a life of service, hospitality, etc. Within this definition, one can be a celibate couple, a celibate single, a celibate member of an intentional community, etc.*)
- Married (how long? _____)
- Divorced
- In a committed partnership (how long? _____)
- Other: _____

If you have children, please list their ages: _____

Profession: _____

Educational background: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT (in the event we'd need to reach someone while you're at the dialogue, please provide the cell phone number and email address of someone you are OK with knowing you're at the dialogue): _____

DIALOGUE INTEREST/EXPERIENCE

What you would most like to gain from being involved in the Oriented to Love dialogue?

Why are you interested in applying for the People of Color-only dialogue specifically?

Have you ever participated in support groups, listening circles or anything that requires you to listen open-heartedly to someone with different views from yours? Please explain:

CHURCH & COMMUNITY

Describe who Jesus Christ is to you.

Please list any involvement(s) you may have in your spiritual community and/or church:

Please list any involvement(s) you may have in any other community groups or activities:

Which best describes your church or spiritual community? Mark only one (but feel free to provide any comments/details in the space below options):

- LGBTQ+ people are not welcome to attend.
- LGBTQ+ people are welcomed but not offered leadership roles unless celibate or in an heterosexual marriage.
- LGBTQ+ people are welcomed into all aspects of church life (both lay and leadership roles) regardless of their relationship status. Same-sex weddings are performed and blessed by the pastoral team, and same-sex unions are affirmed in the same way and to the same extent that heterosexual relationships are.

If you are LGBTQIA: What kind of support do you have from other LGBTQIA people?

If you are NOT LGBTQIA: Do you have any close friends or family members who are LGBTQIA? If so, how would you describe your relationship with them?

SEXUALITY & GENDER

What, in your view, is the role of sexuality in the life of a Christian?

What, in your view, is the role of gender in the life of a Christian?

What do you believe are the most important elements of a Christ-centered marriage?

How do you view non-heterosexuality? Circle a number on the continuum below at the point that best expresses your understanding of how God views sexual relationships. (Please understand that we are limited by space and language and cannot express here the incredible complexity that real life implies! This is just to get a general gauge of where people are coming from theologically.)

1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10

I believe that God views same-sex **sexual** relationships as morally and spiritually equivalent to male-female sexual relationships.

I believe that celibacy and marriage between a man and a woman are the only godly paths God provides for our sexuality.

If you are cisgender, please answer the following (cisgender means you do not identify as transgender):

How do you view people who transition to a gender different from the one that appears on their birth certificate, and/or identify as transgender?

How do you view people who are intersex ("a general term used for a variety of conditions in which a person is born with a reproductive or sexual anatomy that doesn't seem to fit the typical definitions of female or male")?

How do you view people who do not identify strongly with one gender or another (genderqueer, non-binary, agender)?

GIFTS & CHALLENGES

In what way(s) do you feel that God is calling you to dialogue about sexuality and gender?

What do you consider your personal gifts or strengths, especially as it pertains to this dialogue? What can you see yourself bringing to it?

What do you consider your personal challenges, especially as it pertains to this dialogue? In other words, what do you anticipate might be particularly difficult for you in the context of the dialogue? *(This is an opportunity to practice the kind of vulnerability that will serve you and others well at the dialogue, so we encourage you to resist the temptation to dismiss or downplay this, as it's an important aspect of the process.)*

What part has suffering played in your faith journey? In what ways has suffering entered into your life? How have you processed that suffering? What has God done with your suffering? (Specific examples are helpful/encouraged here.)

AGREEMENTS

If you are selected for the dialogue, are you able to respect the privacy of others and agree to keep confidential everything shared within the group?

If you are selected for the dialogue, are you willing to commit to a handful of pre-dialogue preparation exercises and to hand them in by the requested deadlines? (These include submitting a bio, some dialogue questions, a brief reflection on your own hopes and fears, etc; they require much less work than it takes to complete this application, and 5-7 days are given to complete each assignment.)

REFERENCES

These should be people who can vouch for your genuine desire to dialogue (listen to others and share yourself), your ability to keep confidentiality, and your faith in Christ. They should be people who you are comfortable knowing about your participation in this dialogue.

First reference: (name) _____

Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Second reference: (name) _____

Relationship: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

ACCOMMODATIONS

Please list below any special needs you have pertaining to accessibility, dietary restrictions, etc., that will help us better host you: