



## Speakers

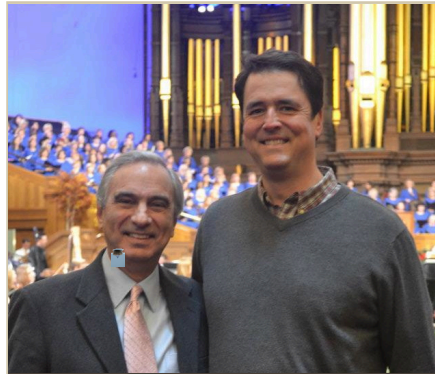
**Keynote Speakers:**  
Carol Lynn Pearson  
and Mitch Mayne

Carol Lynn is the  
acclaimed author of *No More Goodbyes:*  
*Circling the Wagons Around our Gay*  
*Loved Ones*

Mitch Mayne is a gay Mormon  
who serves as the executive secretary  
in his bishopric.

## Discussion

- Authenticity as a Mormon Lesbian
- Navigating homosexuality/SSA while attending church
- What helps (and hurts) when resolving sexual, religious and social conflicts
- A parent's journey to understanding homosexuality/SSA
- Marriage equality and what it means for LGBTQ/SSA Mormons and their families

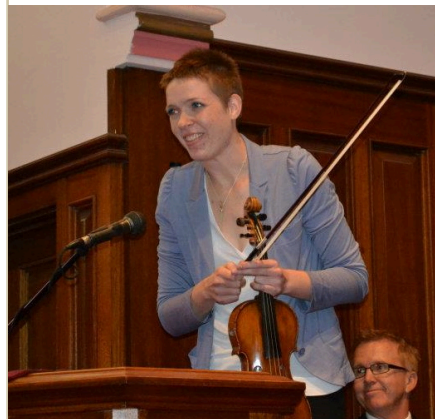


## Music

**Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012**  
**11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Potluck Brunch and  
Catered Dinner

Community of Christ  
3526 Massachusetts Ave NW  
Online Registration Available  
at [www.MormonStories.org](http://www.MormonStories.org)  
Walk-ins Welcome



*Circling the*  
*Wagons*  
Washington D.C.



A Conference for  
LGBTQ/SSA  
Mormons and their  
Families, Friends,  
and Allies.

Church Leaders and  
Ward Members Welcome.

**MORMON**  
**STORIES**

[www.MormonStories.org](http://www.MormonStories.org)



## Q&A

### What is Mormon Stories?

Mormon Stories is a nonprofit organization that has no affiliation with the LDS church. Mormon Stories hosts podcasts, online discussion groups, and social events and conferences across the United States and world. Previous conferences have been held in New York City, Salt Lake City, San Diego, Atlanta, Washington D.C., Phoenix, Houston, Boise, and Stockholm. Mormon Stories also conducts research on LDS homosexuality and other topics such as the causes and costs of Mormon faith crises.

### What is *Circling the Wagons*?

Mormon Stories convened its inaugural *Circling the Wagons* conference in Salt Lake City in November of 2011. The conference garnered national media attention in connection with Bishop Kevin Kloosterman's call for Mormons everywhere to reach out to their gay brothers and sisters.



## *Circling the Wagons* Statement of Purpose:

The goal of Mormon Stories *Circling the Wagons* conferences is to create spaces where LGBTQ or SSA individuals and their families and allies can gather to acknowledge, explore and honor shared experiences. No issues strike more deeply than who we love and how we understand and honor God. These issues carry an especially profound weight in Mormon communities and have been the source of a great deal of misunderstanding, judgment and hurt. Consequently, gay Mormons are deeply divided over how to address same-sex attraction and negotiate the choices they face.

In convening this conference, we are inviting LGBTQ/SSA Mormons and their families and allies to step beyond historic divisions to establish a shared space where all who have ever self-identified as Mormon and have experienced same-sex attraction can speak truthfully and respectfully. Mormon Stories and the Open Stories Foundation are hosting this conference as an expression of our longstanding commitment to LGBTQ/SSA issues and in the spirit of our "Shared Values":

1. We acknowledge the richness of Mormon heritage, teachings, and community in all of its diversity.
2. We believe that one can self-identify as Mormon based on one's genealogy, upbringing, beliefs, relationships, and other life experiences, regardless of one's adherence or non-adherence to the teachings or doctrines of any religious organization.

3. We seek spaces where we as Mormons can live lives of intellectual and spiritual integrity, individual conscience, and personal dignity.
4. We acknowledge and honor different spiritual paths and modes of religious or non-religious truth-seeking. We respect the convictions of those who subscribe to ideas and beliefs that differ from our own.
5. We recognize the confusion, distress, emotional trauma, and social ostracism that people on faith journeys often experience. We seek constructive ways of helping and supporting people, regardless of their ultimate decisions regarding church affiliation or activity.
6. We affirm the inherent and equal worth of all human beings. We seek spaces where Mormons (and all people) can interact as equals regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation. In this spirit of egalitarianism, we prefer non-authoritarian and non-hierarchical means of organization and affiliation.

We welcome all who wish to participate in a spirit of fellowship and openness, with condemnation for none and compassion for all, in the hopes that all will experience personal renewal and discover a basis for common ground in our shared heritage.

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