

There's More than One Way to Live ONA!

Here are some ideas...

1. ADVERTISE AND EVANGELIZE

ADVERTISE YOUR ONA STATUS on your **CHURCH SIGN** or **BUILDING**

Create an **ONA BROCHURE** about your church

ANSWER THE CHURCH PHONE WITH "... AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION"

Put "**AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION**" on your **CHURCH LETTERHEAD**,
WEBSITE and **FACEBOOK page**, **RAINBOW COMMA** on **WEBSITE** and **FACEBOOK**

ARTICLE IN NEWSPAPER about your ONA ministry

CHURCH AD IN NEWSPAPER

March in **LGBT PRIDE Parade** with your church's **ONA BANNER**

ONA INFO TABLE at Town Day or other Local Events

Write a **HISTORY OF ONA IN YOUR CHURCH**

POWERPOINT PRESENTATION – create a slide show about your church and its ONA ministry

2. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

ONA INFO TABLE at Town Day or other Local Events

JOIN WITH OTHER CHURCHES TO:

- Sponsor events

- Show films

- Talk about living out the ONA ministry

- Address community issues and initiatives

- Support the schools in their efforts for inclusion and against bullying Sponsor an LGBT Group

- Advocate in the public sphere

RESOURCE OTHER CHURCHES in their ONA Process

HOST LOCAL GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE for Meetings, Dances, Coffee Houses

RAISE FUNDS and DONATE: Support worthy organizations and groups related to LGBT and other elements of your ONA welcome (e.g. PFLAG, the Trevor Project, Harvey Milk High School - NYC, LGBT Asylum Project)

3. DO JUSTICE/ PUBLIC WITNESS

USE THE INTERNET, FACEBOOK for advocacy ideas, current news and LGBTQ concerns

ORGANIZE or JOIN CAMPAIGNS for LGBTQ RIGHTS Legislation

ADVOCATE for TRUE and FAIR MEDIA COVERAGE OF LGBT PEOPLE – Letters, emails, demonstrations

SHOW UP and BE A WITNESS WHEN INJUSTICES occur

Get your Conference to **SEND OUT INFORMATION ABOUT ADVOCACY** to Churches

RAISE and DONATE FUNDS - Support worthy organizations and groups related to LGBT and other elements of your ONA welcome (e.g. PFLAG, the Trevor Project, Harvey Milk High School - NYC, LGBT Asylum Project)

4. AFFIRM AND SUPPORT LGBTQ PEOPLE (and others in your ONA statement)

Provide **NON-GENDERED BATHROOMS** in the Church

Host **THE SHOWER OF STOLES**

CREATE and DONATE a STOLE to the **SHOWER OF STOLES PROJECT**

HOST THE LOCAL GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE for Meetings, Dances, Coffee Houses, Open Mic Nights

HIGHLIGHT DIVERSITY and MARGINALIZED GROUPS in educational and entertainment programs – Immigration Discussion, Gospel Concert, LGBTQ Chorus

JOIN THE UCC COALITION as individuals and church

Go to the Coalition's **NATIONAL GATHERING**

Present **PANEL** on and/or **CURRICULUM to COMBAT BULLYING** for church or community

LGBT CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS – Acknowledge baptisms, weddings, blessing ceremonies, naming ceremonies, births and deaths in LGBT families

5. CELEBRATE

CELEBRATE YOUR CHURCH ONA ANNIVERSARY with a Worship Service, All-church Dinner, Concert, Banner, Button, a Contribution to an LGBT Organization

March in **LGBT PRIDE Parade** with your church's **ONA BANNER**

CELEBRATE ONA SUNDAY – Last Sunday in January - ecumenical celebration

MARK IMPORTANT LGBT DATES – LGBT History Month, Pride Month, Day of Silence, World AIDS Day **CREATE** and **DONATE** a **STOLE** to the **SHOWER OF STOLES PROJECT**

6. EDUCATE AND INFORM THE CONGREGATION

CONTINUE THE ONA EDUCATION Process in your ONA ministry – keep up to date about LGBT concerns, news, legislation, ways to advocate – Adult Education Series, All Church Leaders Meeting, Annual Meeting

VIDEOS – Show any of the great videos available today, e.g., *For the Bible Tells Me So*, *Call Me Malcolm*, *Anyone Anywhere*, followed by discussion

Keep **ONA BULLETIN BOARD** at Church

ONA Articles in **NEWSLETTERS**

MARK IMPORTANT LGBT DATES – LGBT History Month, Pride Month, Day of Silence, World AIDS Day

REVISIT/RENEW/RECOMMIT TO YOUR ONA STATEMENT – update language (add *gender identity* and *gender expression* if you don't already include it) and groups you list (e.g. *immigrant status*, *military status*, *political beliefs*)

PROMOTE INCLUSIVE MESSAGING throughout the congregation (e.g. “adults in your life” instead of “mother and father” or “parents,” say “all ages welcome” instead of “all families”)

KEEP ONA IDEAS IN PEOPLE'S MINDS - Post ONA-supportive, inclusive and thought-provoking statements/sayings/questions around the church building, develop catch phrases in church conversation

PHOTO EXHIBIT – host a professional family diversity exhibit **OR CREATE YOUR OWN CHURCH STORIES** - Individual and Family Stories - Create a Display or Book, Framed Photos and Stories hung at church

Host **THE SHOWER OF STOLES**

Write up a **HISTORY OF ONA IN YOUR CHURCH** – ONA Process and Ministry since the vote
POWERPOINT PRESENTATION – create a slide show about your church and its ONA ministry

PURCHASE BOOKS AND VIDEOS for your Church Library – include all aspects of your statement

7. PERMEATE THE CHURCH/KEEP ONA ALIVE

Include Your **ONA STATEMENT** in the **Church Bulletin** every Sunday

RECITE YOUR ONA STATEMENT in worship

Put “**AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION**” on your **CHURCH LETTERHEAD**,
WEBSITE and **FACEBOOK page**, **RAINBOW COMMA** on **WEBSITE** and **FACEBOOK**

ONA LOGO – Create one for your church and use it everywhere T-Shirts or Polo Shirts

Church Stationery or Note Cards
LOGO Buttons for your ONA Anniversary ONA Church Refrigerator Magnets Fabric
Processional Banner

CONFIRMATION CLASS – include discussion of LGBT and the church in your confirmation class (e.g. show “For the Bible Tells Me So”)

CHURCH YOUTH GROUP - hold discussion about their ideas for living the ONA ideals

REVISIT/RENEW/RECOMMIT TO YOUR ONA STATEMENT – update language (add *gender identity* and *gender expression* if you don't already include it) and groups you list (e.g. *immigrant status*, *military status*, *political beliefs*). Make sure it is relevant to today's realities.

Provide **GENDERLESS BATHROOMS** in the Church

PROMOTE INCLUSIVE MESSAGING throughout the congregation (e.g. “adults in your life” instead of “mother and father” or “parents,” say “all ages welcome” instead of “all families”)

KEEP ONA IDEAS IN PEOPLE'S MINDS - Post ONA-supportive, inclusive and thought-provoking statements/sayings/questions around the church building, develop catch phrases in church conversation

Make Your Church **FULLY WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE**

Provide **LARGE PRINT HYMNALS**

Provide **ASSISTIVE HEARING DEVICES** and/or **ASL INTERPRETATION** at church

PAIR WITH OTHER COMMITTEES to:

STRENGTHEN THE MESSAGE

INCLUDE and INFUSE ONA IDEALS AND PRINCIPLES into the whole church (e.g. Membership, Outreach, CE, Youth, Finance, Stewardship, Capital Campaigns, Wedding Committee, etc.)

“**MISSION MOMENTS**” about ONA/inclusion in worship

Experiment with **NEW WORSHIP STYLES** and expand **TYPES OF MUSIC** used in your church so that all people feel represented in the worship experience

And...?

List developed by Kathie Carpenter, ONA Consultant, The UCC Coalition and Massachusetts Conference, UCC - version September 2012