

March 17, 2024

Jeremiah 31:31-34

**"Deep In Our Hearts"**

*The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. Jeremiah 31:32*

One of the distinct features of many United Church of Christ conferences, associations and congregations compared to other faith communities is their commitment to become Open and Affirming (O&A). O&A is a stance of radical welcome to LGBTQIA+ people. Because church communities have historically been places of hurt and exclusion, it is even more imperative that churches who are Open and Affirming take a strong and public stance.

A little over a year ago, the ONA Coalition welcomed a new executive director, The Rev. Katrina Roseboro-Marsh. According to a UCC news story that came out at the time,\* She is the first Black woman to head the coalition. "I am honored and excited for this opportunity," she said. "I realize how important my selection is, and I recognize the magnitude of what this opportunity will mean for the LGBTQIA+ community. I accept this challenge because the coalition has laid the sturdy groundwork to make its next steps forward in reimagining and revisioning, with regeneration as a goal."

Roseboro-Marsh has more than 16 years of experience as a clinician. Her particular focus has been working with clients who identify as LGBTQIA+, as well as those who also identify as African American with an active religious and/or spiritual practice.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Katrina to our team because of her unique voice, energy and experience," said search committee chair and Coalition Leadership Team member the Rev. Derek Terry. "With the current attack on queerness in schools and communities across the country, we feel an obligation to protect and ensure the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community."

Terry added that "while some work to erase the experiences of BIPOC people from the pages of history books," Roseboro-Marsh will "increase our advocacy work through an intentionally more intersectional approach."

Roseboro-Marsh is ordained clergy and holds ministerial standing with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Fellowship of Affirming Ministries. She is married to the Rev. Tana Roseboro-Marsh; they reside on the east coast with their Morkie, Xola Darling Roseboro-Marsh.

\*<https://www.ucc.org/new-ona-director-global-ministries-exec-among-recent-hires/>

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