



Karen Booth
*Director of Transforming
Congregations*

Dear Supporters of Transforming Congregations,

I am very excited to tell you that Transforming Congregations (TC) formally united with Exodus International in July. The merger will help us to better fulfill

our mission – “equipping churches in the Methodist and Wesleyan traditions to model and minister sanctified sexuality.” (1 Thessalonians 4:1-7)

Transforming Congregations has been connected to The United Methodist Church since 1988 and was designated an approved Extension Ministry of the denomination in 2003. As such, it will continue to exist as a distinct Department within Exodus. But now we will also be part of a larger team in the Exodus Church Equipping Division. By uniting our resources and working together, Senior

Director Jeff Buchanan, Kristin Tremba (Director of merged PCUSA ministry OnebyOne) and I will be able to reach many more churches with God’s truth and grace concerning the challenging issue of homosexuality.

Founded in 1975, Exodus International is a nonprofit, interdenominational Christian organization with a mission to mobilize the Body of Christ to minister grace and truth to a world impacted by homosexuality. Exodus is currently the world’s largest Christian outreach to those dealing with same-sex attraction.

As the director of TC for the past six years, I have had the privilege of getting to know and work with the leadership of Exodus, and I can assure you that our mission goals, our approach to ministry, and our vision to impact the Church are one and the same. The financial integrity and professionalism of Exodus honors God and honors the individuals and churches that sacrificially give to this ministry.

Our goal is very challenging: to reach and mobilize hundreds of local churches to minister grace and truth to a world impacted by homosexuality. God has amazing plans in store for His Church! We hope you will prayerfully consider partnering with us and also that you’ll encourage your own local church to get involved. And please continue to pray for all of us as we continue to live out this amazing transition.

I want to close by thanking you for your past and current support of Transforming Congregations. Your prayers, your affirming messages, and your financial gifts mean so much. May God richly bless your faithfulness as we reach out with compassion and truth to the sexually sinful, broken and confused.

Sincerely,

P.S. Please see note on the back about future letters and updates.

Transforming Congregations Ministry Update

This year, we’ve mainly focused on educational efforts to educate and train church leaders. In May we co-hosted a “Theology of the Body” seminar with sister organization Lifewatch and the New Bern United Methodist District. Keynoter Paul Griffiths summarized Pope John Paul II’s teaching about human dignity, wholesome sexual expression, and holy marriage, and Roman Catholic and United Methodist attendees discussed ways the teaching can impact both of our great Churches. TC hopes to continue to develop the seminar as a pilot project for future events, and if your church, District or community would be interested in hosting a similar event, contact our national office. A synopsis of the seminar is available in pdf format at www.lifewatch.org/pdf/theology_of_body.pdf.

Karen Booth spoke to a group of seminarians at Trinity School for Ministry (Anglican) in Ambridge PA. She shared TC’s vision, purpose and mission, challenging both inexperienced and seasoned pastors to address sexuality issues in their preaching, teaching and pastoral counseling. She will have the same opportunity in October when she meets with United Methodist students at Dubuque Seminary.

TC has also continued to advocate within the United Methodist Church (UMC) and Mainline for traditional teaching and practice in regard to human sexuality and marriage. Part of the UMC Renewal Coalition, we helped to defeat a denominational Constitutional Amendment that would have radically changed our Book of Discipline. If adopted, the Amendment would have stripped pastors of their authority to decide readiness for church membership, with no provision for refusing persons involved in any kind of immoral or unethical behavior. And it would probably have opened the door for ordination of practicing gay clergy.

Finally, we’ve continued to offer referral, resources and support to the folk who contact us by email and phone. From parents grieving when their son or daughter “comes out,” to pastors wanting a good book to share with the same-sex strugglers in their pews, to laity who need encouragement to “fight the good fight” for truth and grace, we’re there with a listening ear and solid suggestions.

YES! I want to help Exodus continue offering hope and healing to those seeking freedom from homosexuality.

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500
 \$_____ (other)

Thank you for partnering with us!

I have made changes to my mailing address below.

Checks should be made out to **Exodus International**. To designate the gift towards the work of Transforming Congregations, please write **Transforming Congregations** in the **memo** of your check. General gifts will go where most needed.

- Please designate my gift to Transforming Congregations.
 Please charge to my credit card (use form on back).
 Please sign me up to receive the monthly electronic Exodus newsletter

My e-mail address: _____

- Please delete me from your mailing list. [Note: You may receive additional issues of the Impact due to the timing of our mailing cycles.]

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transcong.org
exodusfreedom.org
exodusbooks.org
exodusyouth.net

Projects & Giving Opportunities

Workshops and Speaking Engagements

We will be visiting various churches, conferences and seminaries this year to bring the Biblical message of how churches can minister truth and freedom to the sexually confused, broken and sinful. We'll also continue to present our workshop "Foundations for Ministry" at local church events and conferences. Speakers will teach, answer questions, and share helpful resources. If you'd like to schedule a speaker or workshop, please contact us!

Developing Resources for Churches and Ministry Leaders

Directors of Transforming Congregations, OnebyOne, and Exodus' Church Equipping Division will be developing a comprehensive package of resources for local churches, pastors, ministry leaders, and students. We get many requests for such resources, and they are vital to the Church's education and training efforts.

Reaching Our Youth

Exodus International is the only ministry that has materials, videos, and a website for teenagers and young adults who struggle with unwanted same-sex attraction. We want to help promote these resources to our churches.

Networking and Advocacy

TC will continue to network with renewal and reform groups within The United Methodist Church (UMC) and in the Mainline to advocate for traditional policies and teaching about marriage and human sexuality. As a member of the UMC Renewal Coalition, we will continue to strategize toward General Conference 2012 and will help create legislation to present there and on the Annual Conference level.

Exodus Freedom Conference '10

TC, OnebyOne and Exodus' Church Equipping Division will be encouraging and training pastors, ministry leaders, and church members at the Exodus Freedom Conference, June 22-26 in Irvine, CA. Each year hundreds of men and women who have chosen to surrender their sexuality to God have experienced God's healing presence in their lives through fellowship, worship, and teaching. This year there will be a special program for church leadership on Friday evening and a unique workshop track on Saturday. Why not plan now to attend this life-changing gathering!



What is the Exodus Church Association?

The Exodus Church Association is a referral network of caring communities sharing a common cause. These churches share a redemptive biblical worldview on the issue of homosexuality and are committed to being safe places of worship for those dealing with unwanted same-sex attractions.

Your partnership with Exodus International is essential to our mission to mobilize the Body of Christ to minister grace and truth to a world impacted by homosexuality. To learn more about becoming a part of the ECA, visit our website at www.ExodusChurchAssociation.org.

in the news

The Exodus/TC merger received extensive media coverage, with print articles in *Charisma*, *World Magazine*, and *Christianity Today*, and scores of posts on the Internet, including in United Methodist denominational and renewal outlets. (Google "Exodus Transforming Congregations merger" for a sampling.) Director Karen Booth was interviewed several times by Moody Radio, and you can watch her presentation from the merger press conference here - www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbM02A8Vf10.

Mark Yarhouse and Stanton Jones presented the latest findings of their six year study of Exodus ministry participants at the yearly meeting of the American Psychological Association. Consistent with their earlier research, most clients had successfully maintained their changes in sexual desire and behavior and had not experienced the effort to do so as harmful. You can read their full paper at <http://wthrockmorton.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/08/Jones-and-Yarhouse-Final.pdf>.

Claiming "lack of consensus" on the morality of homosexual conduct, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) recently voted to approve the blessing of same-sex unions and the ministry of homosexual pastors in partnered relationships. They join two other Mainline denominations, the United Church of Christ and the Episcopal Church, in taking this action. Orthodox dissenters are considering a number of responses, including redirecting money or breaking official ties with the denomination. You can find out more at the *Lutheran CORE* website - www.lutherancore.org.



Future Updates and Newsletters. You will continue to receive letters from Karen and you will be added to the Exodus monthly *Impact* newsletter as well.

Exodus also offers an electronic newsletter, the *e-Impact*, that can be sent to your e-mail address. Please sign up on the contributor card by giving us your e-mail address so we can add you to those monthly updates.

Contacting Karen Booth and Transforming Congregations. Karen can be reached directly at (608) 325-5712 or by e-mail at kbooth@exodusinternational.org.

Partnering Financially with Exodus International. Exodus International is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). Our membership is an outward expression of our inner resolve to represent the truth and integrity in all aspects of our ministry. All donations to Exodus are tax deductible. We offer convenient and secure methods for supporting our ministry. You may donate through the card you received with this edition of the Impact Partner Letter, or online through the ExodusBooks.org website. Please contact us about monthly donations, or donations of assets at (407)599-6872.

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Dear Transforming Congregations and Exodus,

Please pray for: _____

