



# Sacred INTERSECTIONS

BODIES, CULTURE, SEXUALITY & SPIRIT



## Rebecca Voelkel & Phil Porter

*a long-weekend retreat exploring the sacred relationship between sexuality and spirituality—conversation, exploration, embodiment and celebration*

**March 31–April 3, 2016**

Thursday dinner (6 pm) through Sunday noon

### Oak Ridge Conference Center

A beautiful location near Minneapolis, MN with well-appointed rooms and great food

### REGISTER ONLINE

[tinyurl.com/sacredintersections](http://tinyurl.com/sacredintersections)

*Do you want to find new ways to claim the unique story of your sexuality?*

*Are you curious about the ways in which your racial identity, physical ability and class are intertwined with your experience of sexuality and gender?*

*Do your religious or cultural contexts either ignore or deny the sacred power of sexuality?*

*Do you long for wholeness and connection rather than disembodiment?*

*Do you desire to engage your body as blessing and as impetus for transformational justice in the world?*

**Come spend time with other spiritually-rooted people interested in exploring embodiment's gifts.**

**\$675** all-inclusive tuition, meals and double-occupancy room (add \$175 for single room)

### Download a full brochure

[tinyurl.com/sacredintersectionsbrochure](http://tinyurl.com/sacredintersectionsbrochure)

### Questions?

Contact Rebecca ([rmmvoelkel@aol.com](mailto:rmmvoelkel@aol.com)) or Phil ([phil@interplay.org](mailto:phil@interplay.org))



**OPEN AND AFFIRMING  
COALITION**  
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



### CO-SPONSORS

[www.lyndaleucc.org/justice/](http://www.lyndaleucc.org/justice/)

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

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



## About the Retreat

**Rebecca Voelkel** and **Phil Porter** have both spent many years looking at, playing with, and writing and talking about sexuality and spirituality. They will lead **Sacred Intersections**, a long-weekend retreat to look at many of these issues. Through experiential exercises, writing, movement and conversation, we will reflect upon, grapple and play with the extraordinary, complex gift of our bodies.

We will have opportunities to explore our own history and experience, share conversations with others both formally and informally, and engage our own physicality through simple and accessible activity. Rebecca and Phil will also share some of the ideas and constructs that they have developed in their own exploration.

This retreat is geared toward deepening and exploring. This may mean taking a step further than we have before. Although each person will have their full choices about how they engage and what they share, we hope that you will come with a high level of willingness to explore and be curious about your own experiences of your body. Respect for the experiences of others will be key to our interactions.

People of all sexual orientations, gender expressions, gender identities and cultural and life experience are welcome. Each individual story is part of the whole story. Rebecca and Phil are both committed to including, supporting and honoring the diversity of our experience.

Oak Ridge will be a beautiful setting for this week, with well-appointed rooms and excellent food. The facilities and surrounding area provide a number of

opportunities for walking, biking and other exercise and we will be inviting participants to find ways to use these resources as part of the intention of the weekend.

## Oak Ridge Conference Center

1 Oak Ridge Drive  
Chaska, MN 55318

just 25 minutes from the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport  
(<http://www.oakridgeminneapolis.com/>)

For those flying in, we will help coordinate transportation to and from the airport

Oak Ridge is a full-service conference center located on 30 acres of natural beauty surrounding Lake McKnight. The facility includes hiking and biking trails, a fitness center, sauna and gymnasium, comfortable hotel-style rooms and complimentary wifi. The food is excellent and all meals are included from Thursday dinner through Sunday brunch.

## Cost

\$675 all-inclusive tuition, meals and double-occupancy room (add \$175 for single room)

To register online: [tinyurl.com/sacredintersections](http://tinyurl.com/sacredintersections)

## About Rebecca & Phil

**Rebecca Voelkel**, a pastor in the United Church of Christ, is the Director of the Center for Sustainable Justice. She is an activist, movement-builder and theologian whose forthcoming book is entitled *Called to be Lovers in the Name of God: (In)queering the Body of Christ*. She has been working on questions of bodies, sexuality and justice-making for most of her twenty-five years in ministry. For more about her work, find her on Facebook (Center for Sustainable Justice),

[www.RevDrRebeccaMMVoelkel.com](http://www.RevDrRebeccaMMVoelkel.com) and on Twitter (@RevVoelkel).

Because this weekend is about all of our complex bodies here are some of Rebecca's own identities: she is a forty-six year old, white, cisgender woman who is a mother, comes from a working class and middle class background and currently lives in a family that is upper-middle-class.

Reflect

Grapple

Play –

with the  
extraordinary,  
complex gift of our  
bodies



Although she lives with asthma, she understands herself as temporarily able-bodied.

**Phil Porter** is the co-founder and co-director of InterPlay and Minister of Art & Communication at First Church Berkeley, United Church of Christ. He is a teacher, performer, theologian, visual artist, writer and composer. His books include *Having It All: Body, Mind, Heart & Spirit Together Again at Last*, *The Wisdom of the Body* and *The Slight Mad Rantings of a Body Intellectual Part One*. He has been exploring issues of sexuality and spirituality in his teaching and writing (and experientially!) for over 30 years. He has developed ideas and practices that allow individuals and groups to explore their own powerful experience around important and sometimes touchy issues in easy and incrementally ways. He is a huge believer in ease and fun. Phil is also a long-time member of the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition and currently serves as its President.

He is white, cisgender, gay man, who comes from working class and middle class backgrounds and likes to think of himself playfully now as part of the “cultural elite.” He has been partnered for 21 years with Chinh Nguyen. He was married to a woman before he came out in his mid-twenties. He is a transplanted Hoosier, an INTJ (on the Meyers-Briggs) and a mystic. He sees himself as currently-able-bodied even as he deals with his assorted limitations.

## Co-Sponsoring Organizations

**The United Church of Christ Open and Affirming Coalition** has advocated for the full inclusion of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions in church and society for over 40 years. The Coalition’s core ministry is the growing movement of Open and Affirming (ONA) churches in the UCC. Under its leadership, ONA is now the largest and fastest-growing LGBTQ-welcoming movement in the Body of Christ. Today there are more than 1,300 ONA congregations. The organization is committed to an intersectional approach to justice and inclusion.

**The Center for Sustainable Justice** works to help build the movement of religious leaders and communities working together on racial, pro-LGBTQ, food and environmental justice in the Twin Cities and across the Midwest. It does so with a special emphasis on work at the intersections, relationship-building over the long-haul, connecting and building coalitions between

people and organizations. Facebook: The Center for Sustainable Justice, on Twitter @SustainJustice and [www.lyndaleucc.org/justice](http://www.lyndaleucc.org/justice)

**InterPlay** is a 25-year-old system of tools and practices based in movement, stories, voice, stillness and connection that allow individuals and groups to unlock the wisdom of the body. Co-founded by Cynthia Winton-Henry and Phil Porter, InterPlay has grown into a global social movement in over 60 cities. More than 800 people have graduated from the InterPlay Life Practice Program and are leading in many ways across the US and several other parts of the world.

