

# Including Joy

Maxwell Reay

01.09.12

Celebrating the health and happiness brought to churches who include and reach out to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities.

**How do we offer and experience the idea of "radical welcome?"**

The workshops will reflect on "Radical Welcome" as a basic spiritual practice that includes an understanding of "the other" based on patterns of inclusion and exclusion.

We will look at ways of supporting LGBT folks, their families and friends to feel included and affirmed in all aspects of church life.

Radically welcoming communities are those that are committed to transformation and journeying together. It is about the relationships we have with ourselves and with one and other.

There will be an opportunity to explore:

LGBT pastoral care

LGBT Coming out stories

Transgender and Faith issues

Transgender characters in the bible

LGBT rituals and worship

The LGBT Church year

**Maxwell Reay** has been a minister with Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) since 1993. Maxwell has worked in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community for over 20 years. He currently works as an NHS mental health Chaplain in Edinburgh and is a non-stipendiary minister with Augustine United Church (AUC) in Edinburgh. Maxwell coordinates AUC's LGBT ministry "Our Tribe" and the transgender ministry "Transcendence".

