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Groundbreaking Documentary "From Selma to Stonewall: Are we there yet?" to Screen in Dallas at Multiple Venues Feb 7-12

FILM EXPLORES JOURNEY OF A BLACK, STRAIGHT PREACHER AND A WHITE, LESBIAN ACTIVIST THAT FORM AN UNUSUAL BOND AS THEY SEEK TO FIND THE INTERSECTION BETWEEN THE BLACK CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE LGBTQ EQUALITY MOVEMENTS OF TODAY, CAPTURING THE POLARIZED POLITICAL STATE WE ARE LIVING IN TODAY

Dallas, TX.....January 11, 2017.....The recently released and acclaimed documentary, "From Selma to Stonewall: Are we there yet?", which focuses on the intersection of race, sexual orientation, gender identity and religion, will screen at several venues in Dallas between February 7-12, 2017, accompanied by panels discussions with diverse local and national advocates and faith leaders addressing the issues in the film.

Director Marilyn Bennett, author and lesbian activist, created the film as a vehicle to explore the Civil Rights Movement and the LGBTQ Equality Movement with longtime friend and collaborator Rev. Gil Caldwell, an 83-year old straight Black retired United Methodist pastor and Civil Rights foot soldier. After meeting while working to change the policies of the United Methodist Church in 2000, Bennett and Caldwell created the film to document their journey exploring the Civil Rights Movement and the LGBTQ Equality Movement from their differing perspectives and life experiences.

Said Bennett: "We ended our journey in making the film with new-found hope at the intersections. Given the current political climate, including the apprehension of many for what is to come in the aftermath of the 2016 elections, it is particularly salient that our film focuses on acute issues very much in the headlines and on our minds in Texas and across the nation, including police brutality, racial injustice and transgender discrimination.

“My memories of Dallas are many,” said Rev. Caldwell, “I attended racially segregated B.F. Darrell Elementary School and Booker T. Washington High School. My preacher father and our family left Dallas my second year of high school to go to Galveston and then to Austin where I finished at Anderson High School in 1951,” Caldwell continued. “I vividly remember the pain and challenges institutionalized racism placed on our lives in Texas.”

“Today, more importantly than ever, we must address the intersection of justice issues that are central to our film,” continued Caldwell. “It is essential that those who are LGBT rights activists understand their relationship to those who are black rights activists and vice versa. And, those who do not identify with these justice issues, we hope, will begin to understand how their justice priorities fit with our rights struggles. As a longtime, straight, LGBT rights activist, as an advocate and ally of others, my life has only been enriched. I wish that more persons would experience that, and our film is a vehicle for that change. I look forward to coming home to Dallas to look at how far we have come and discuss what we must do moving forward to create a more fair and equitable world for all of us. Often at the end of my talk about the Civil Rights Movement and Martin Luther King in schools across the nation, students will say to me, ‘I want to shake the hand of a man who shook the hand of Martin Luther King,’ which always stirs emotions deep within me. Sharing and showing the film is my way of keeping Dr. King's dream alive,” concluded Caldwell.

Some of the people featured in the film are journalist/activist Darnell Moore, Dallas activist Cd Kirven, Stonewall veteran Tree, Union Theological of NYC vice president Rev. Fred Davie, Baltimore pastor, scholar and activist Rev. Brad Braxton, Audre Lorde Project's Cara Paige, Alabama scholar and pastor Rev. Tommie Watkins and NY Transgender Advocacy Group founder Kiara St James.

Information about the screenings is below; if you would like to preview the film please contact cathy@targetcue.com.

Rev. Gil Caldwell, a foot soldier and friend of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Marilyn Bennett, writer/activist, will be available after the screenings for Q&A and are available for press interviews prior to the screening of the film.

Screenings:

February 7: From Selma to Stonewall: Are We There Yet? University of Texas at Dallas will hold an on-campus film screening and panel discussion. Please contact the Galerstein Women's Center at womenscenter@utdallas.edu for more information.

February 8: St. Luke Community UMC (www.slcumc.org), 5710 East R.L. Thornton Freeway, will host a screening at 6:30 pm. A Q&A with Caldwell and Bennett will

follow the showing. Rev. Caldwell, co-founder of Black Methodists for Church Renewal and respected denominational leader will be recognized for his work. The event is free and open to the public.

February 11: The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, (www.transfiguration.net) will host a screening at 7pm in Roper Hall at their campus located at the corner of Spring Valley and Hillcrest Roads. A panel discussion with Caldwell, Bennett, Dallas activist Cd Kirven, who is featured in the film, and Fort Worth pastor Rev. David Wynn of Agape MCC will follow the showing. The Rev. Casey Shobe, Rector of Transfiguration, serve as moderator. The event is free and open to the public.

February 12: The Dallas theatrical premiere will be held at the Texas Theatre (<http://www.thetexastheatre.com/>) at 5 pm, doors open at 4 pm. The film is co-sponsored by Interweave Dallas, an affiliate LGBTQ group of First Unitarian Church of Dallas, Cathedral of Hope, Dallas PFLAG, The Resource Center, NTUUC (13 North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations) and First Unitarian Church of Dallas. A panel discussion with Caldwell, Bennett, and Dallas leaders will follow the film. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students with an ID. To purchase tickets, go to <http://www.prekindle.com/>

For more information about the film go to: <http://www.fromselmatostonewall.com/>