

TRANSFORMING CONGREGATIONS NEWS RELEASE – BETH STROUD TRIAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Rev. Karen Booth, Executive Director

Transforming Congregations

PO Box 580

Millsboro DE 19966

302-945-9650

TRANSFORMING CONGREGATIONS URGES THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH TO FOCUS ON MINISTRY

According to Rev. Karen Booth, Executive Director of Transforming Congregations, the recurring battle over homosexuality within The United Methodist Church has effectively silenced the voices of former homosexuals and hampered the effort to minister to those who struggle with unwanted same-sex attraction and gender confusion. Pro-gay activist Soul Force claims that The United Methodist Church practices “spiritual violence” against LGBT persons because it adheres to a Biblical understanding of sexuality. Transforming Congregations disagrees, and instead argues that real “spiritual violence” occurs when the church neglects those who want out of homosexuality.

Men and women – both inside and outside the church – have successfully changed their sexual orientation. But when excessive time, energy and resources are spent arguing over sexuality issues, that message gets lost in the fray and hurting people fall through the cracks. The United Methodist Book of Discipline stands in solidarity with former homosexuals. (Paragraph 162H) And the 2004 General Conference directed the denomination’s Board of Discipleship to study effective resources for sexual transformation. Transforming Congregations urges the denomination to decisively act upon those principles.

Transforming Congregations is an extension ministry of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. Started in 1988 by a group of pastors in California , the movement has grown from a handful of affiliate churches to over two thousand individuals and congregations – United Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Assembly of God, Independent and Community churches in the United States and overseas – that support the movement through prayer, financial support and active local ministry. The national ministry educates and equips local churches to effectively teach Biblical sexuality and minister to sexual strugglers. Executive Director Karen Booth is attending the trial and may be contacted for further information or comment about the trial at 302-841-7869. The ministry website is www.transformingcong.org.

Transforming Congregations is also a member ministry of Exodus International, a worldwide interdenominational organization that for thirty years has helped people find freedom from homosexuality. Rev. Bill Taylor, the Exodus North Atlantic Regional Representative, is attending the Stroud trial on Wednesday and may be contacted for comment at 717-735-0691 (cell) and after the trial at 866-301-3297 (Day 7 Ministry office.) The Exodus International website is www.exodus.to