

Plenary II

Thursday, October 8
8:00 am – 9:30 am



Selisse Berry

Selisse Berry is founding executive director of Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, the nation's only national nonprofit organization specifically dedicated to creating safe and equitable workplaces for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. Under her leadership, the organization has grown significantly with 1200 percent expansion in the annual Summit since 1999, and fourteen regional affiliates across the United States.

During her tenure at Out & Equal, Selisse has regularly met with executives, HR professionals and LGBT employees to expand LGBT equality in workplaces across the country and globally. Under her leadership, the organization has created numerous programs to advance its mission, including the annual Out & Equal Workplace Summit, bimonthly Town Call seminars, the Out & Equal Workplace Institute—which seeks to bring together scholarly research on LGBT equality with business and human resource managers, the nation's largest registry of LGBT Employee Resource Groups, the soon-to-launch LGBT CareerLink—a website devoted to connecting LGBT job seekers with LGBT-friendly companies, and substantial programming in the growing network of regional affiliates.

Her clear and unwavering vision has been instrumental in creating an internationally recognized organization whose philosophies reflect the importance of treating all colleagues in the workplace with respect and dignity. Since her first job as a guidance counselor, Selisse has continued her commitment to justice as a teacher and as executive director for several social service organizations prior to founding Out & Equal Workplace Advocates. She has master's degrees in education and theology from the University of Texas and San Francisco Theological Seminary respectively. Selisse and her partner, Cynthia Martin, were married in July 2007.

Ms. Berry has worked for the ordination of out LGBT people in various denominations and is co-editor of the book, *Called Out: Voices and Gifts of LGBT Presbyterians*. Selisse has also worked as a special education teacher, a guidance counselor and has extensive experience as a diversity trainer around LGBT issues and broader diversity issues and often consults on LGBT diversity issues.