



crossbeams

www.gladalliance.org

A publication of the Gay, Lesbian, and Affirming Disciples Alliance, Inc.

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Discernment Ministry Team Creates a Presence

This fall The Discernment Ministry Team has had team members at 5 regional assemblies. The team had displays in the Tennessee, Nebraska and National Capital Area assemblies. There were workshops on discernment in Indiana and brochures were handed out in Texas. Christian Board of Publication provided posters for all assemblies we attended.

Plans are underway for a booth and workshops at General Assembly next summer to promote the discernment process.

Want to be involved?

Going to your Regional Assembly?

The team is looking for ways to have a display in more regions. Poster and brochures will be provided. Rules vary between regions as to who can put up a display. If you are willing to check what is needed in your region and sponsor a display about the discernment process contact either Karen Barr (kbarr@gladalliance.org) or Mark Covey ([@gladalliance.org](mailto:mcovey@gladalliance.org)).

See the display used at the Tennessee Regional Assembly at news.gladalliance.org.

New Directions for GLAD Leadership

On November 4 The GLAD Alliance Council and Ministry Team Leaders, meeting at Central Christian Church in Indianapolis, asked "is there more we can do and be?"

The group was lead in retreat by Linda Gardner, a professional facilitator helping organizations with long range planning.

The leadership team examined what GLAD does well, what we can do more of, and where we want to keep our focus and energy.

The team agreed that much of what we already do is important and significant. The leadership team also made significant progress that committed the Alliance to strengthening our existing successful programs and a new commitment to a stronger presence at all levels of the Church. You will see evidence of that new commitment in this Crossbeams and in the near future.

Special thanks is due to Central Christian for their gracious hospitality and to council member Patti Case for her help with local arrangements.

More on the Leadership Retreat at news.gladalliance.org.

Controversial UCC Ad?

The UCC's latest attempt to be an inclusive church has been rebuffed by several major networks. Read about the ad and how you can respond at news.gladalliance.org.

Comments and questions? See the forum at www.gladalliance.org/gladblog

Did you know?

- In six months of lesbian and gay marriage rights in Massachusetts, over 4200 gay and lesbian couples have married. Several of those weddings have been performed by Disciples clergy.
- Fred Phelps working to increase the acceptance of gay men and lesbians in small town Oklahoma?

Links at news.gladalliance.org.

News and Notes

- Casey Williams and Steven Baines have been appointed to fill vacant positions in the Alliance Council.
 - Support and Advocacy Team is picking up steam. New leadership is gathering and developing ideas.
 - The council has approved an operating budget for 2005. Program and administrative expenditures have been estimated at \$41,600.
 - New Council Officers and Ministry Team Liaisons have been appointed
 - Over & Above Fundraising Letter a real team effort
- More at news.gladalliance.org.

From the Moderator

The GLAD Alliance Leadership retreat began two days after the disastrous and disheartening election results. I believe that it is hard to overstate the challenges and danger that this election presents all of us. Whether or not "moral" issues (often meaning homophobia) made the difference in the presidential race, it is the belief of many that they did. Those working against us will be emboldened at every level of society to press their beliefs.

We must once again seize the fervor that we are fighting for our lives. We simply can no longer assume that progress will occur without direct action.

We must continue to find ways to "come out" (as either a GLBT or affirming person) on issues of inclusiveness in every forum we have and at every opportunity.

It is time for us as individuals and as an organization to say clearly and loudly to every level of the Church that it is no longer acceptable to be silent on these issues and to explain the pain that their silence causes us.

Finally, we may need to accept that the road ahead is still long and difficult, and we must use our resources to nurture and support one another.

- David Nickell

More at news.gladalliance.org

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



*Merry Christmas
from GLAD!*

GLADblog

GLAD has a new presence on the web. The Communications Ministry Support Team has developed a web bulletin board for the Alliance, a place where GLAD members and friends can discuss ideas, thoughts, questions, answers, and opinions. You'll find it at www.gladalliance.org/gladblog.

Register today and happy blogging.

New Direction for Crossbeams

The Communications Ministry Team's goal for 2005 is to make Crossbeams more convenient and more accessible. The print version is going to be shorter, more frequent, and better

integrated into the web. The web version of Crossbeams will now be true web content rather than a copy of the print version.

Help make Crossbeams even better: questions, comments, and suggestions are always welcome at crossbeams@gladalliance.org.

You can download this Crossbeams from news.gladalliance.org.
Print copies for your congregation, friends, and family.