



crossbeams

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

María Perez and Matthew Chastain Nominated to GLAD Council

The Nominating Committee has forwarded two highly qualified candidates for nomination to the GLAD Council: María Perez of Omaha NB and Matthew Chastain of Mercer Island WA.

The Nominating Committee, selected by the GLAD Council, included David Downing of Southern California, Chair; Gene Brink, Colorado; Patti Case, Indiana (member of GLAD Council); Laurie Rudel, Washington; and Casey Williams, Northern California (member of GLAD Council). Other members of the Human Resources and Nominating Ministry Support Team helped with the effort, including Wayne Bennett, Dick

Miller, and Gordon Shepherd.

When selecting nominees, the Nominating Committee is limited by the requirements of the GLAD Design which calls for a gender balance and for lay representation on the Council. The team is also asked by the council to attend to other diversity issues including race, sexual orientation, and geography.

If the current nominees are elected at Portland the Council will be evenly balanced with clergy and lay members, will include 6 LGBT and 2 affirming members, one Hispanic and 7 Anglo members, 4 youth, and a wide geographical representation.

You will find short biographies of Matthew and María in this Crossbeams and more on <http://news.gladalliance.org>.

Many thanks to the Nominating Committee for their good work!

2005 Event at Portland's First Christian Church

First Christian Church of Portland has offered the use of its facilities for GLAD's pre-Assembly Event. The church is two miles from the Oregon Convention Center.

The Event begins Saturday, July 23 at 8:30 a.m.

Through the theme "Jesus Calls Us . . . Out," participants will have the opportunity to experience GLAD's ministries on a first hand basis and to join together in worship. The day's activities will conclude by 5:00 p.m. to allow attendees to prepare for the Assembly's opening worship.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Registration fees are \$25 for those financially able and \$15 for seminarians, students and those with limited financial resources. Registration forms will be in Crossbeams and online at in early April.

... and more on the web

GLAD Banquet: Buy a Chair! Buy a Table!

O&A Ministry Participates in VisionFest at 2005 General Assembly with the Coming Out Labyrinth

Shower of Stoles at the General Assembly

GLAD Included in Disciples Year Book

GLAD will be listed in the *Year Book & Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)* for the first time when the next issue is sent to press.

The Office of the General Minister and President agreed to sponsor GLAD as an "other organization" of the Disciples of Christ and the Administrative Committee of the General Board voted to approve the listing.

Such listings are "for information only" and do not constitute official recognition. However, the Year Book listing does raise GLAD's visibility among Disciples.

GLAD Financial Statement and Budget Available For Review

David Nickel, GLAD Treasurer, with assistance from Randy Palmer, GLAD Development and Finance Team Leader, have prepared GLAD's Financial Statement for 2004 and Budget for 2005.

You can review these statements at <http://news.gladalliance.org>.

Smaller, Shorter, Cut

This is the third edition of the new look for Crossbeams, a shorter and more frequent newsletter with more news on the web at <http://news.gladalliance.org>.

How do you like our new look? Let us know at crossbeams@gladalliance.org.

**Council Nominee:
María Perez**

Born and raised in Puerto Rico, María is a graduate of La Universidad de Puerto Rico in 1977. While working in New York City in as a middle school teacher for 15 years she attended graduate school at night and earned masters degrees in Bilingual Education and Natural Science. She also graduated from the Hispanic Bible Institute in NYC in 1990.

María has been active in the congregational, regional, and

general manifestations of the church including La Convención, the Division of Overseas Ministries, and the Common Global Ministries Board.

María currently lives in Omaha, Nebraska and with her partner Nancy Brink and her daughter Hannah. She teaches Spanish at Iowa Western Community College and is a member of North Side Christian Church, an Open and Affirming congregation in Omaha, Nebraska.

María has attended several GLAD events and is a member of the Open and Affirming Ministry Team.

María would like to continue her involvement in GLAD as a member of the Council because it provides a platform and the means to be an agent of change for the larger community. As a Hispanic she brings a different perspective and point of view on the challenges that face us. She can also be an instrument to the Council to bridge the gap that exists between ethnic groups and the Gay community. Maria would also like to serve as a way of thanking all of those who have preceded her in the struggle for civil rights for GLBT persons.

**GLAD Alliance Inc
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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



**Council Nominee:
Matthew Chastain**

Matthew grew up in a large, non-denominational, and theologically conservative Midwest church where he was a leader of his youth group and participated in outreach and mission programs in his neighborhood and around the world. Eventually he attended an affiliate Bible College and Seminary. However, when he came out to himself and others as a gay man, while he had never before felt so connected to God

he was asked to leave the Bible College without credits.

It took Matthew 12 years to reconcile that experience with his faith. Today he is an active member of All Pilgrims Christian Church (DOC and UCC) in Seattle.

At All Pilgrims Christian Church Matthew says he has found a church family where all are sisters and brothers no matter their faith system, sex, orientation, education, physical abilities or financial situation.

Here he has found a voice for spiritual justice.

Matthew has worked with the Disciple's discernment process on the church's response to lesbian and gay Christians and is called to further ministry in this area.

Matthew came to know GLAD at the Event at Drake University in the summer of 2004. There he found himself empowered by the programming and fellowship and returned to Seattle knowing that he had found another outlet for his passion for spiritual justice.