



crossbeams

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

Issue #58 May 2005

www.gladalliance.org

Disciples General Minister Nominee Cites "Extravagant Hospitality" of God's Table

By unanimous vote, the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has nominated the Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins, 50, Senior Minister of Disciples Christian Church of Bartlesville, OK, to serve as General Minister and President of the Christian Church. If elected at the General Assembly in July, she will be the first woman to serve as General Minister and President.

"As a life-long Disciple, I know our church has a unique, God-given mission for these times - a mission that has to do with the extravagant hospitality of the communion table," said Watkins.

"As someone who has witnessed her work first-hand here in Oklahoma, I know Rev. Watkins to be a friend of ALL Disciples - a person committed to a theology of inclusion and acceptance of all who seek fellowship with Christ's followers," said GLAD

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- David Nickell
GLAD Moderator

Disciples General Board Unanimously Denounces Violence and Hateful Speech Toward LGBT Persons

The Disciples General Board has unanimously approved a "Sense-of-the-Assembly" resolution which "denounces all forms of spiritual and physical violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, including language meant to demonize and vilify."

The item was submitted by four Disciples congregations: University Christian Church, San Diego, CA; National City Christian Church, Washington, DC; North Side Christian Church, Omaha, NE; and Park Avenue Christian Church, New York, NY; in cooperation with GLAD.

The resolution also calls the church back to its own process of discernment "concerning the gospel message to the church as we related to lesbian and gay Christians."

See the full text of the resolution at www.disciples.org/ga05/resolutions/0514.htm

Moderator, David Nickell. "What wonderful news for all of us!"

Besides experience in congregational pastorates - including Disciples Christian Church, where she has served since 1997 - Watkins has participated in church dialogues on ecumenism, stewardship, worship, Bible study and women in ministry.

Her service to the church covers a variety of the church's ministries including higher education, membership on the General Board of the Christian Church, Reconciliation, Moderator of her Regional Church, and mission work in the Congo.

Rev. Watkins was ordained in 1984 at Hamden, CT. She earned a Doctor of

Ministry degree from Phillips Theological Seminary, a master's of divinity from the Yale Divinity School, and a bachelor's degree in French and Economics from Butler University.

Read more at news.gladalliance.org.

Open & Affirming Ministry Team Celebrates Three New O&A Ministries

The Open & Affirming Ministry Team Celebrates the addition of three ministries to the O&A Ministry Program.

The new additions are

- Forest Hill Christian Church, San Francisco, CA
- Winterville Christian Church, Winterville, NC
- University Christian Ministries Southern Illinois University-Carbondale Carbondale, IL

Sixty-six Disciples congregations and ministries are publicly O&A and specific in proclaiming to the Church and to the world their solidarity with sisters and brothers in Christ who are marginalized because of their differing sexual identities.

Complete contact information for these and all the O&A Ministries can be found at www.gladalliance.org/oa.html.

Don't Miss! Rachel Frey shares the O&A Team's vision of renewed leadership on the web at news.gladalliance.org

New Council Member: Vance Martin

The GLAD Alliance Council has appointed Vance Martin to fill the council position which opened when Sharon Hart resigned.

Vance Martin, a native of Los Angeles has been employed in public assistance with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Service since 1964. He is presently in charge of community-based offices of the department that provide services to assist CalWORK's program families to seek and find employment.

Vance has been a member of United Christian Church (DOC), Los Angeles, since 1961. His late uncle pastored Century Birch Street Christian Church, which was the earliest African American Disciples congregation in Los Angeles.

Vance has served the Disciples on the General, Regional and Congregational levels, including service as the second vice-moderator of the General Assembly from 1985 through 1987, on the Commission on Theology from 1978 through 1989, Moderator of the Pacific Southwest Region from 1980 to

1982, and with the Disciples-UCC Partnership Committee in the late 1980's.

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of Claremont School of Theology and has served on the seminary's Center for Sexuality and Christian Life. In the spring of 2002 he attended the African American Roundtable of the Pacific School of Religion's Gay and Lesbian Center.

Read more about Vance at news.gladalliance.org.

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



All are Welcome in Northern California- Nevada Region

"You are welcome here, because EVERYBODY'S welcome here!!"

With these words, Ben Bohren, Transitional Regional Minister, called the Northern California-Nevada Region to open the door at which Jesus is knocking.

At the opening worship of the region's Annual Meeting, Bohren said that Christ's call to all of us is to come together around the

Welcome Table. He challenged the region, which has been Open & Affirming since 1993, to act on that affirmation by opening up to each other, recognizing differences of opinion and learning to work together in love.

Bohren, said it's time for us to remember that, as Disciples, "we agree to disagree . . . agreeably. We have gay and lesbian church members, gay and lesbian clergy, and 16 Open & Affirming churches in the Region, and it is time to recognize that fact and get on with the work of Christ in the world."

He urged congregations to take up the denomination's discernment process on the church's response to lesbian and gay Christians. The cheering and prolonged applause which answered this challenge spoke of the appreciation of many for Dr. Bohren's timely message.

Brochures supplied by GLAD's Discernment Ministry Team were available for information, as well as displays of the book *Listening to the Spirit* and accompanying video.