



crossbeams

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

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www.gladalliance.org

How to make the most of General Assembly

GLAD Alliance has a wide variety of opportunities for engagement at General Assembly for members and friends. Plan now to participate.

GLAD Alliance Pre-Assembly Event

Saturday, July 23 • 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. • First Christian Church, 1315 S.W. Broadway, Portland

This day-long event is designed to equip GLAD members to be a faithful and effective presence at General Assembly.

GLAD Alliance Banquet

Sunday, July 24 • 5:30 p.m. • Oregon Convention Center Portland Ballroom 254-255

The Rev. Dr. John Thomas, UCC General Minister and President, will address the theme "Jesus Calls Us ... OUT!" as he recalls the controversy and nontraditional success of the UCC ad campaign "God is Still Speaking." The controversy? The ad proclaimed "Jesus didn't turn people away. Neither do we."

Exhibit Booths

GLAD Booth: Connect with friends and get up-to-date information on General Assembly events and activities of interest.

O&A Booth: Learn strategies for becoming an Open & Affirming congregation and ask about the 2006 Training Event.

Discernment Booth: Sponsored by the Office of General Minister and President, this booth offers instruction, materials and information about the Disciples effort to engage in dialogue on the role of GLBT Christians in the life of the Church.

Coming Out Labyrinth

Sun - Tuesday July 24-26 • 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. • Vision Fest, Exhibit Hall-E

Pastor Nancy Brink and North Side Christian Church of Omaha, Nebraska, bring the "Coming Out Labyrinth," a guided, meditative experience.

Resource Groups of Interest

'Til Death Do Us Part:

Beyond the Politics of Same-Gender Marriage

Monday, July 25 • 2 - 5:15 p.m. • Red Lion Inn Terrace Room

Develop a decidedly Christian, justice-oriented response to this politically charged issue. Panelists John Thomas, UCC General Minister and President; Nancy Brink and Maria Perez, Omaha, Nebraska, two Disciples engaged in a legal battle for equal

marriage rights, and others.

Discernment 101: an introduction

Tuesday, July 26 • 2 - 3:30 p.m. • Red Lion Inn Terrace Room

Discernment 201: hands-on experience

Tuesday, July 26 • 3:45 to 5 p.m. • Red Lion Inn Terrace Room

These back-to-back sessions, sponsored by the Office of General

Minister and President, offer practical experience to help you bring the General Church's process of discernment on the church's response to lesbian and gay Christians to your congregation.

[Please note that all times and locations for resources groups are subject to change by the Assembly organizers.]

"Call Me Malcom"

Sunday, July 24 • 3 p.m. • First Congregational Church (UCC), 1126 SW Park Ave.

Call Me Malcolm, a documentary co-produced by the United Church of Christ, is the story of a transgender minister ordained by the UCC. Come to the GLAD Booth for more information

So THAT's why they call us GLAD: An experience in comedy

Sunday, July 24 • 9 p.m. (immediately following evening worship) • Red Lion, Terrace & Window's Sky rooms

Jesus Calls Us ... Out!

For more information and to buy tickets for the Banquet and register for the Event see www.gladalliance.org

Buy tickets and register before the Assembly to ensure availability.

Limited on-site availability.

Disciples, Baptist, and United Church Welcoming Programs Form Partnership

Baptist, Disciples, and United Church of Christ Welcoming Church Programs have entered an historic partnership to further their missions of welcoming lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Representing over 700 churches in the U.S., the Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists,

the Gay, Lesbian and Affirming Disciples Alliance, and the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns have agreed to collaborate in leadership development and community organizing. The three groups will hold a joint national gathering in Indianapolis June 26-29, 2006.

The partnership calls for joint public witness, theological conversation, and collaborative ministry.

"Over these past few years, we discerned in our partnership conversations that the point at which at our communions

intersect most powerfully is around welcoming issues," says Rev. Dr. Mike Castle, pastor of Cross Creek Community Church in Dayton, Ohio, a congregation affiliated with both the UCC and the Alliance of Baptists.

The groups are now discussing the formation of a national LGBT Clergy Network and joint training for community organizing beginning in 2006.

Read more on the web at news.crossbeams.org.

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



O&A Ministry Team Announces O&A Training Event for February 2006

At the O&A General Assembly aftersession on Monday July 25th the team will share plans for the first O&A Training Event to be held at First Christian Church, Las Vegas, NV, February 9-11, 2006.

At the aftersession, members of the O&A Team will announce the theme, goals, speakers and musicians for the event.

If you can't attend the aftersession, keep an eye out for news of the Training Event in future Crossbeams.

More on the Web

- Forty Pastors Sign Covenant of Inclusion
- Second National Conference of the African American Roundtable Project
- Transgender Welcome from Iowa Disciples Congregation

See news.gladalliance.org for the full story.

Are you receiving advance notice of Crossbeams via e-mail? No? Then we don't have your e-mail address!

Contact us at crossbeams@gladalliance.org and let us know that we can save a stamp and send you Crossbeams by e-mail.