



crossbeams

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www.gladalliance.org

Breathing Life: Open & Affirming Training Event

A cast of impressive speakers, the Nevada sun in the middle of winter, and the hard work of our Open & Affirming Ministry team: what's not to like? *Breathing Life*, the O&A Ministry Team's training event, will be held February 9-11, 2006 at First Christian Church in Las Vegas, NV.

Currently, the list of speakers includes Emily Eastwood, Executive Director of Lutherans Concerned of North America; Mary Ann Tolbert, Executive Director of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry at Pacific School of Religion, and Ron Parker, Executive Regional Minister of the Central Rocky Mountain Region.

Registration is expected to be \$50 and will include the event, local transportation, and food. A group rate is being negotiated at a local hotel.

Watch this space for more details.

More on the Web

Read more about all these stories at news.gladalliance.org

Web Exclusive:

Pictures: GLAD Presence at gay pride in New York City

Questions? Comments?
Criticism? Praise?

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GLAD teams with Affirming Baptists, UCC Coalition, for Joint 2006 National Gathering

On June 26-29, 2006 the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns, Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists, and the Gay, Lesbian and Affirming Disciples Alliance will gather in Indianapolis, Indiana for a National Ecumenical LGBT Gathering

Over 400 people are anticipated to gather for four days of dynamic speakers, empowering workshops, vibrant worship and, of course, Hoosier hospitality.

The United Methodist-affiliated University of Indianapolis has been selected as the perfect site for this event. The campus is newly remodeled, fully air-conditioned, and completely handicap-accessible. The dining facility will easily accommodate the entire group, and the worship space will be fantastic (full theatre!).

All the buildings are located in close proximity. Low cost dormitory style housing is available on site, with a variety of hotel options a short drive away. Close highway access will make getting there easy, too!

Indianapolis is a major metropolis in the heart of the Midwest. Known as the "Crossroads of America," it is intersected by more major highways than any other city in the country. With its beautiful "White River Park" area featuring a zoo, botanical garden, minor league baseball stadium, and an assortment of museums in the heart of downtown, as well as its famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway, RCA Dome and Convention Center, and Conseco Fieldhouse, Indianapolis is a perfect vacation getaway. Indianapolis also proudly features the world's largest Children's Museum...for kids of all ages! A wide assortment of gay-owned and operated restaurants, bars, and dance clubs add to the local entertainment options.

Save the Date! Join the Gathering -- Plan on making Indianapolis a vacation destination in June 2006!

Other News

The Disciples General Assembly meeting in Portland OR will consider Resolution 0514: *Denouncing Hateful Speech and Action Aimed at Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Persons, and Renewing Our Commitment to the Process Of Discernment*. Read the resolution at www.disciples.org.

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ recently passed a resolution affirming same-gender marriage equality. Read the resolution and the support it received from UCC General Minister and President John Thomas at news.ucc.org.

Welcoming Programs Unite through The Institute for Welcoming Resources

The Institute for Welcoming Resources is moving forward with new board members, more specific goals, and a new website.

Vaughn Beckman, Senior Minister, First Christian Church, San Jose, and former Alliance Council Member represents GLAD.

IWR's specific goals include:

- the development, production, and distribution of resources to support the welcoming church movement
- the development and planning of conferences and training events designed to inspire, empower, and equip members and leadership in the welcoming church movement
- the expansion of networks and the creation of coalitions within and beyond the welcoming church movement.

At the IWR website
www.welcomingresources.org

you can contribute personal stories and find additional resources.

IWR is working with the Freedom to Marry Coalition, the National Religious Roundtable, the Human Rights Campaign; and PFLAG.

The GLAD Alliance has contributed to IWR since its inception. This support makes this emerging dynamic program possible as it grows and brings the welcoming church program to a new level.

Read more about the IWR at news.gladalliance.org.

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



New Open & Affirming Ministry: First Christian Church, Lehigh Acres, FL

John Payne, former coordinator of the Open & Affirming Program (forerunner of the current Open & Affirming Team), reports to us that that First Christian Church of Lehigh Acres, FL has adopted this Open & Affirming mission statement:

We accept all creation without judgment as given by God. We embrace a life founded in love in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, we affirm and accept all people of any race, age, culture, gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation, religious belief, family configuration, economic circumstance, or difference in ability.

We actively seek to discern and defend truth and continue to seek an openness of mind and heart which will enable us to change as our understanding of life and human nature change.

We promise to honor all holy traditions and cherish all paths to the sacred.

We actively refuse and oppose hate, violence, and discrimination, physical, mental, or spiritual, toward any of God's creation, while forgiving those who use them.

For more information about GLAD's Open & Affirming ministries, contact Rev. Rachel Frey at rfrey@gladalliance.org.

For more on the story see news.gladalliance.org.