



crossbeams

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GLAD Council Makes Bold New Moves at Annual Leadership Retreat

During the first weekend of November, the GLAD Council and GLAD Ministry Team Leaders met in Indianapolis to set direction for the ministry of GLAD over the next year.

Two major events are planned for the next year. The Open & Affirming Ministry Team is pulling together Breathing Life, the first Open & Affirming Training Event. The GLAD Council is also coordinating with Tapestry, planned for June, which will be a gathering of GLAD, the UCC Coalition, and AWAB, the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. Tapestry will be the annual GLAD event in 2006. This Crossbeams contains more news about these two events.

Also, moderator Patricia Case encouraged the council to make a bold new commitment to mission, and the council responded with a \$4000 pledge to New Covenant Christian Church in Houston, Texas. New Covenant is the first Open & Affirming church in the Houston area and ministers especially to the needs of the area homeless, including many gay youth. The needs in the area have only multiplied in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The council also expanded its mission to youth with a commitment for increased GLAD programming for young people and to explore youth

programming with our ecumenical partners.

Other initiatives developed at the meeting are the need to develop a statement on same-gender marriage equality and a resource to open further dialog with churches on discernment.

GLAD leadership also discussed the need to develop relationships with other Disciples partners, including Hispanic Ministries, the Convocation (African American Disciples), NAPAD (Pacific-Asian Disciples), and also Disciples schools and seminaries.

Tapestry

Save the date! June 26-29, 2006 at the University of Indianapolis, for Tapestry, a gathering of GLAD, the UCC Coalition, and the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists.

Keep up with the breaking news at news.gladalliance.org.

Crossbeams on the Web

Did you know that Crossbeams is also available on the web? At news.gladalliance.org you can download resources for your congregation, including this month's paper version of Crossbeams and this month's Breathing Life church bulletin insert

And you can save a stamp and a tree by subscribing to the e-mail only version of Crossbeams. Just e-mail us at crossbeams@gladalliance.org.

Discernment in Colorado Springs

Richard Daetwiler from the Central Rocky Mountain Region brings us a report on how the church's discernment process on gay and lesbian Christians was introduced in Colorado Springs. Below is a summary of the report. Read the entire report at news.gladalliance.org.

Elders and clergy from Colorado Springs gathered at the Penrose House October 1st for a presentation by a panel from the Central Rocky Mountain Region's Discernment Team. The team presented an overview of the discernment process and modeled the process for those gathered using resources from *Listening to the Spirit: A Handbook for Discernment*.

Perhaps the most poignant part of the presentation was the stories told by the panel members concerning their experiences in their own discernment process. It was a time for both laughter and tears. A period for questions followed with opportunity for those gathered to express thoughts, fears, concerns and joys over the day's experience.

Because of the various positions of the panel members the team was able to demonstrate how Disciples can come together, disagree together, cry together, laugh together, discern together, and, at last, come to the Table together.

And it was at the Table that the day came to a close.

LaTaunya Bynum New Team Leader for Support and Advocacy

LaTaunya "Toni" Bynum has agreed to lead GLAD's Support and Advocacy Ministry Team. She brings impressive skills and deep Disciples connections to the task.

Toni is currently senior pastor, Broad Street Christian Church, Columbus, Ohio. Her connection with GLAD includes service on the Alliance Council. LaTaunya recently completed her duties as Chair of the Search Committee for General Minister

and President of the Christian Church. She is a member of the Disciples General Board and Administrative Committee, standing Committee on Renewal and Structural Reform, and Disciples-World Board of Directors.

LaTaunya's ministry in the Christian Church has included serving the church as a member of the general staff for twelve years with the Homeland Ministries Center for Leadership and Ministry, focusing on clergywomen, seminarians, and clergy development. She has also served as Vice President of the National Convocation of the Christian

Church (Disciples of Christ). She is a native of Los Angeles, California. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Chapman University and a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degree from the School of Theology at Claremont.

The Support and Advocacy Ministry Team is dedicated to providing pastoral care to GLAD members.

For more information about the Support and Advocacy Ministry Team or to learn ways you can support the team, contact Toni at lbynum@gladalliance.org.

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It's Ninevah, not Nirvana

GLAD Moderator Patricia Case Blogs In on Houston Hurricane Relief Work

(HOUSTON) After about a month on the job, GLAD Moderator Patricia Case offers reflections on her ongoing hurricane relief work in Houston, Texas, which she lovingly dubs "Ninevah" in her Weblog:

"When I left home, I felt a little like Jonah going to Ninevah..."

Oh, God, no. Not Texas! It's not that I'm more obedient than Jonah. Just more selfish. I mean, I learned a long time ago that running from God's call is futile. So it's easier to just take Highway 59 South, with an extra tank of gas in the trunk, than to be puked up by a whale in Galveston Bay. This way, at least I get to bring a laptop..."

This is just a piece of the entry from Case's October 1, 2005 entry in her blog, available at <http://prcase.blogspot.com>.

Case is working as a volunteer with Houston's Interfaith Ministries.

To help cover her expenses while in Houston donations clearly marked "Hurricane Relief: Patricia Case" can be sent to:

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