



crossbeams

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

Breathing Life: First Ever Gathering of Disciples Open and Affirming Communities

Registration Deadline January 1st

*Prophesy to these bones, and say to them:
O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.
Thus says the Lord God to these bones:
I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.*
Ezekiel 37:4,5

Rachel Frey, co-team leader of GLAD's Open & Affirming Ministry Team, invites all who are interested in Open & Affirming ministries to Breathing Life, February 9-11, 2006, at First Christian Church in Las Vegas, Nevada with these words:

A great location, exceptional personalities, awesome musicians, wonderful worship and lots of folks committed to sharing the ministry of Jesus Christ.

As the Open & Affirming Ministry Team prepares to gather for this historical meeting, we seek your prayers and support so that the Good News of church growth which comes alive in and through Open and Affirming Ministries can be proclaimed.

We are eager to fill our regional settings with fresh air as we reflect upon our mandate found in Ezekiel

37:4-5. Our purpose is to empower faith communities to breathe life into dry bones.

We are confident you will be delighted to be a part of this moment in the history of the Disciples of Christ.

Breathing Life marks the first time ever when all O&A ministries (and potential O&A ministries) within our denomination will come together.

This three-day event will **unite** our ministries through fellowship and networking; **empower** our ministries through training and theological grounding; and create **change** in our church and our world as we return to our communities, ready to live into our call to be "living resources," modeling a truly welcoming ministry that affirms all persons.

Make your plans now to come to this event, and bring representatives from your congregations. The registration fee for the event is only \$50 per person, and we will waive the registration fee of the 4th registrant from each congregation.

We ask you to contact five friends right now to make sure they remembered the registration deadline.

The mail-in registration deadline has passed, and the online deadline is approaching quickly, so register soon. You can learn more about the event and register online at www.gladalliance.org.

Breathing Life Schedule

- Uniting - Thursday February 9, 12pm-9:30pm
 - Establishing Personal Connections
 - Establishing Scriptural Connections
 - Worship - Emily Eastwood, preaching
- Empowering - Friday February 10, 8am-9:30pm
 - "Sounds of Silence" workshop training
 - Presentation by Mary Ann Tolbert
 - Small Group Reflections
 - Inspirational Resources Workshop
- Creating - Saturday February 11, 8am-1pm
 - Presentation by Ron Parker
 - Worship

Breathing Life Speakers

Emily Eastwood is Executive Director of the Lutherans Concerned/North America. LC/NA is dedicated to the acceptance and full participation of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities within the Lutheran communion. She is also Director of the Reconciling in Christ Program of LC/NA.

Mary A. Tolbert is Professor of Biblical Studies at the Pacific School of Religion and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. She played a pivotal role in the conception and realization of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and

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Discernment Team Capitalizes on General Assembly Success

Following the success of the Discernment Ministry Team's work at the 2005 Portland General Assembly, the team is now planning to take their show to *Mix in '06*.

Mix in '06, to be held this June in Indianapolis, is the combined women's event for the Disciples of Christ and the United Church of Christ. Attendance is expected to be 5,000 women from across the country, making it comparable in size to attendance at General Assembly. This gives the team an

excellent opportunity to promote the discernment process among Disciples and introduce it to our friends in the UCC.

The team is also in the process of planning its work with regional assemblies. The goal is to be present at 6 regional assemblies and to focus on assemblies which the team has not visited in the past 2 years.

If you can assist the team, perhaps offering to create and staff a display at your regional assembly, contact Karen Barr, Discernment Ministry Team Leader, at kbarr@gladalliance.org.

GLAD Alliance Inc PO Box 44400 Indianapolis IN 46244-0400

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



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Ministry at the Pacific School of Religion. Mary's scholarly teaching and writing focus on feminism, biblical interpretation and social location, and, most recently, queer theory and gender construction.

Ronald Parker serves the Central Rocky Mountain Region as the Executive Regional Minister. He is a member of the Discernment Team of the CRMR which has developed a process to assist churches in experiencing the Disciples' discernment process on the

Gospel message to our Church as we relate to gay and lesbian Christians. He is also on the Board of Directors of Tennyson Center for Children at Colorado Christian Home.

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We'd can also save a stamp and a tree and receive only the e-mail version of Crossbeams.

Drop us an e-mail at crossbeams@gladalliance.org.

UCC Open and Affirming Program Hits 10% Mark

The UCC ONA Program has passed the 10% milestone in registering 585 of the UCC's approximately 5,800 congregations as Open and Affirming.

Read the letter from Ann B. Day and Donna E. Enberg, ONA Program Staff for the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns at news.crossbeams.org.

Web Exclusive

GLAD member Robin Davis, member of the contemporary Christian Trio *Set Free*, produces Christmas CD. Read about it and link to downloads at news.crossbeams.org.

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.