



# crossbeams

A publication of the Gay, Lesbian, and Affirming Disciples Alliance, Inc.  
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[www.gladalliance.org](http://www.gladalliance.org)

## Tapestry Event A Big Hit With Attendees

More than 250 persons attended the first joint gathering of the GLAD Alliance, the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns, and the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists (AWAB), meeting at the University of Indianapolis, June 26-29. Fantastic speakers, moving worship experiences, great music, lively small group discussions, and interesting workshops meant there was "something for everyone" at this one-of-a-kind event.

Unique characteristics to this event were a Tapestry choir, exhibit hall, and "Affinity Groups" (such as "Clergy," "Transgendered," and "Lesbian") where persons met for informal conversation about whatever was on their minds. Denominational groups had the opportunity to have their own gatherings and business meetings, and the leadership of the three groups met over lunch to discuss future collaborations. There was an overwhelmingly positive response from participants to the question: "should we do this again?" The only question that remains is, "how often?"

-Tonja Gerardy

*[ed note: Tonja Gerardy, GLAD Council Member and liaison to the Support and Advocacy Team, served as GLAD's representative on the Tapestry 2006 planning team. Many thanks for her good work.]*

## GLAD Moderator Outlines New Initiatives at the Annual Business Meeting

GLAD Moderator Patricia Case, outlined these initiatives at the annual business meeting which was held at Tapestry 2006:

**MISSION INITIATIVE** financially supporting New Covenant Christian Church, a new, intentionally Open & Affirming Disciples congregation in Houston, Texas.

### MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

A strategy to grow GLAD's membership so we more fully reflect the full diversity of Disciples.

### SAME-GENDER MARRIAGE STATEMENT

A task force to develop a statement on same-gender marriage equality. Once GLAD has a statement, we anticipate being in a position to follow through on challenges to the Pension Fund to open pension benefits to same-gender couples.

### DEVELOPING DIALOGUE FROM COMMON

**THEOLOGICAL GROUND**  
GLAD Council is working to create a resource intended to open dialogue with those with whom we historically have struggled to open dialogue. This resource is intended to communicate a solid biblical apology for an inclusive gospel.

### DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS ETHNIC BOUNDS

GLAD is working to open dialogue with Disciples partners across the denomination.

## LGBTQ YOUTH MINISTRIES

GLAD is working to develop space/opportunities for young LGBTQ people to grow in Christian Spirituality. We are exploring creating events for high school students and young adults, including discussions with our ecumenical partners about creating large events such as weekends or weeklong, camp-like experiences.

*Read more about Tapestry 2006 and the business meeting at [news.gladalliance.org](http://news.gladalliance.org).*

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## The Institute of Welcoming Resources

Sharon Hart, a member of GLAD's Open & Affirming Ministry Team, has this to say about the Institute of Welcoming Resources:

*"The scriptures tell us that the body of Christ is made up of many members and that we are members of one another. The Institute for Welcoming Resources is a perfect example of how the church, when all of the parts are working together, is a strong presence and voice for justice love in the world."*

Read the article by Rev. Rebecca Voelkel, Program Director for the IWR, in the on-line version of Crossbeams at [news.gladalliance.org](http://news.gladalliance.org).

The IWR website is [www.welcomingresources.org](http://www.welcomingresources.org)

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## A Congregation Tackles Advocacy

In 2005, following nearly a year of prayer, study and reflection, the members of Midway Hills Christian Church in Dallas, Texas, adopted as one of its ministry imperatives advocacy for Open and Affirming Ministries.

Activities to-date include Bible studies, involvement in local politics, revising the church website, and an ad in the Dallas Morning News.

Future plans include the congregation's first Gay Pride

Parade entry, offering workshops in the congregation and at the Regional Assembly, and helping to amend regional policies on ordination.

The desired outcome of all these efforts is to increase the number of Open and Affirming Congregations in the North Texas Area and the Southwest Region. It is possible for one congregation to make a difference!

- Roger W. Wedell

*Read the full article at [news.gladalliance.org](http://news.gladalliance.org)*

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## Web-exclusives

- Northwest Regional Minister Against Washington Referendum 65
- Alvin O. Jackson Called as Senior Minister of Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City
- Holy Relationships Midwest Regional Conference to be held in Iowa City
- Pictures from Tapestry 2006

All available at [news.gladalliance.org](http://news.gladalliance.org)

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## Isaac's Prayer

My 2-year-old friend, Isaac and I went sailing recently. I'm no expert on a sailboat so I made a strategic error and ended up with no wind in my sail. As I worked to get the boat oriented appropriately to catch the wind, Isaac watched.

I tried to explain to him that when your orientation is wrong in a sailboat, you are dead in the water. It hit me: So, orientation DOES matter. But what kind of orientation? It occurred to me as I positioned the boat that the

church spends a lot of time obsessed with sexual orientation – but our Creator seems to be concerned with our God-orientation.

None of those deep thoughts occurred to Isaac. He looked up at the sail once I got the boat oriented and shouted, "C'mon, Wind!" Just then a gust hit us. The sail snapped and filled, and our little boat jerked into motion. Isaac's eyes were as big as dinner plates!

That's the wonder of God's promise to us. Tell the story of your orientation to God, that

together Disciples may pray Isaac's prayer: "C'mon Wind!"  
- Patricia Case, GLAD Moderator

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Check out Crossbeams on-line at [news.gladalliance.org](http://news.gladalliance.org).

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

Drop us a note at [crossbeams@gladalliance.org](mailto:crossbeams@gladalliance.org).