



crossbeams

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www.gladalliance.org

GLAD Presence at North American Pacific Asian Disciples Convocation

Cooperating with the Disciples Peace Fellowship, David Downing helped coordinate GLAD's first time presence at the NAPAD Convocation.

David reports that the booth location was in front of the door through which everyone had to enter into the lobby, putting GLAD front and center. He received many comments from a number of people, all positive. One person simply wrote "Thank You!" on a slip of paper and left it on the table while Dave was away for a few minutes. One of the other regular booth people from the General Church said when they walked in they thought that they were in the wrong place, because GLAD was there. He indicated to Dave that this is certainly a new day for everyone and was very happy to see GLAD there.

GLAD also cooperated with DPF on placing an ad in the Convocation program booklet.

See pictures of the booth and the program booklet ad at news.gladalliance.org.

Crossbeams On-line

Send us your e-mail address and we'll let you know when the next Crossbeams is on-line.

We'd 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.

Celebrating Blessings

Shortly after openly lesbian pastor Jeanne Loveless was called to First Christian Church, San Lorenzo, CA, the church also decided to become Open & Affirming.

The journey that landed Jeanne at First Christian ran through her coming out in Indiana, faith discarded to homophobia, and finally, through tears, laughter, and prayer, to the understanding "that absolutely nothing can separate us from the fierce love of God."

Today First Christian celebrates her ministry and leadership.

Read the full article at news.gladalliance.org.



Living Openly in your Place of Worship

Be sure to check out "Living Openly in your Place of Worship," a resource available from the Human Rights Campaign. This guide is designed for those who have felt the deep pull of faith and are also gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, or who are friends, neighbors, family members or allies of GLBT people. The guide provides with suggestions and resources about coming out and living openly in places of worship.

Links for more information are available at news.gladalliance.org.

In Memory: Vaughn Beckman

It is with heavy hearts that we report the passing of Vaughn Beckman early on the morning of September 6 in Fremont, CA. Although Vaughn had been struggling with cancer, his sudden passing was unexpected. A memorial service is planned for September 16 at The First Christian Church of San Jose, CA.

Most recently Vaughn served as pastor of FCC San Jose. His many and varied ministries included pastor of FCC Honolulu, HI, director of the San Jose Peace Center, and founding member of the board of the Institute for

Welcoming Resources. Vaughn's colorful ministry included waking one morning to find that his church had been firebombed, filing a lawsuit against the city of Honolulu for supporting fundamentalist religious events, and reminding the church that we are called to be hospitable to all regardless of culture or race, immigration status, gender or sexual orientation.

Vaughn's ministry was celebrated at FCC San Jose just weeks ago as he retired from full-time ministry.

Vaughn, pastor, prophet, and friend, will be missed.

GLAD Moderator TV Interview: Affirming the Welcoming Church Movement

Little did we know, when planning Tapestry 2006, that Exodus, the "ex-gay" organization, was meeting just up the road in Indiana. However, the local media caught wind of this interesting coincidence and Channel 13 in Indianapolis decided to do a news piece comparing the two events. It's

too bad that Exodus was so secretive that they didn't allow Channel 13 access for their part in the dialog.

You can see the video at news.gladalliance.org.

Out in Scripture

Disciple Judith Hoch Wray was recently featured in HRC's lectionary resource "Out in Scripture." Are you using this valuable tool?

<http://www.hrc.org/scripture/>

UCC Resources on Marriage Available

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ, meeting in Atlanta, GA, voted in July 2005 to adopt a resolution entitled "Equal Marriage Rights for All." The United Church has developed resources to help facilitate conversations on equal marriage throughout the church and society. These resources include a DVD and study guides. More information about these resources is available at ucc.org/justice/marriage.htm.

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



How is Your Church Showing it's Pride?

- Pamela Webb, Open & Affirming Ministry Team

GLAD Member Rev. Allen Harris, pastor of Franklin Circle Christian Church in Cleveland, OH, considers Pride an integral part of his ministry. His ministry includes cooperation with other glbt religious and spiritual leaders in the Greater Cleveland area. Together these leaders have been participating with each other in preparing floats in the annual Pride Parade and offering

opportunities for blessings to participants during events.

What else can congregations do to show their Pride?

- National Coming Out Day services.
- Booths at community events which offer information about their O&A welcome to the community.
- Pass out bottled water stamped with information about the church's inclusive welcome during HIV/AIDS walks and other events.
- Get listed in the glbt

community newspapers; also advertise your church's welcome in local magazines, newspapers and travel guides.

- Provide an O&A corner on the church website with links to helpful resources.

What has your congregation done? How are you sharing the good news that all are always welcome in your church? Let us know. Send your stories to pwebb@gladalliance.org so that the Open & Affirming Ministry Team can share your stories and ideas with others.