



crossbeams

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University Christian Church, Ft. Worth, to host GLAD General Assembly Event

Patricia Case, GLAD Moderator, reports that the board of University Christian Church of Fort Worth, Texas voted to extend hospitality to the GLAD Alliance for the 2007 Pre-Assembly event. The board understood that its welcome might be perceived by some as "controversial" but their decision was based on their understanding of the Communion Table. It took them about five minutes to decide. The vote was unanimous.

University Christian Church Pastor Tim Carson writes of the board meeting:

At the regular September Board meeting of University Christian Church, Ft. Worth, its members voted unanimously to extend hospitality to GLAD for their pre-Assembly gathering this coming summer. Though the board noted that the decision might be controversial, and that some other congregations might reject the request, members expressed the importance of honoring the open table that Disciples extend to all. Said one board member, "How could Disciples not invite other Disciples to be our guests?" The discussion and decision took less than ten minutes.

Getting Wet for Jesus

- Pamela Webb, O&A Ministry Team

More than a dozen faithful Disciples found themselves "Getting Wet for Jesus" as they received the refreshing blessings of rain before, during and after the 23rd annual Dallas Pride Parade. Among the participants were mature veterans of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender and affirming Disciples who have participated in such marches over the years. Also present were persons who had never experienced such a gathering of individuals seeking to say we are "Proud, not Prejudice" of our GLBT brothers and sisters.

Playing on kazoo's "Jesus Loves All the Children of the World," Midway Hills Christian Church members and friends made clear that this church family will love, accept and affirm you. We will not curse you, damn you to hell. We will not ignore or go out of our way to avoid you. We will not put you down by quoting isolated scripture without regard to the total context and message of God's Love for everyone.

This message was in contrast to a few protestors who sought to challenge our welcome and our participation in the parade.

Accusations were yelled as the protestors approached members, saying such things as: "Your church will go to Hell. The homosexuals in your church are leading you into sin and you'll be damned! Repent! Ask Jesus to forgive you. Turn them away and you'll be saved."

Being good Disciples, our folks didn't just walk away. They engaged the protestors in polite biblical dialogue. MHCC folks bore witness to their faith and received the hate filled words. With poise, they offered a clear and rational message of the amazing love and grace of Jesus, who welcomes all people to gather around the welcome table.

Thanks to all who participated and supported this vital Open and Affirming ministry in our community. Please continue to pray that those who have been spiritually abused by their families and home churches, might find a home and a welcome with a church like Midway Hills Christian Church

Events on the Web

Links to several events of interest to GLAD members can be found at news.gladalliance.org:

- Marriage Equality Colloquies in Washington
- GLAD Member Robin Davis to sing at the Gospel & Unity Concert in Raleigh, NC
- Love Breaks Out conference in Palm Springs November 11

Check out Crossbeams on-line at news.gladalliance.org.

The on-line version contains more information than we can print in the paper version of Crossbeams.

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.

News from the Open & Affirming Ministry Team Planning Retreat

The O&A Ministry Team held their annual retreat August 18-20 in the in the mountain home of one of the Northern California-Nevada Region's elders in Calaveras County, California. The weekend consisted of times of worship, reflection on the work of the team in the past year, and looking towards the future.

Several members of the team have resigned recently and the team worked to ensure smooth transitions.

The team wishes to express it's gratitude to these resigning members who have served us well: Matthew Chastain, Anita Cadonau-Huseby, Sharon Hart, Ben Bohren, Rachel Fry, and Christy Newton.

These leaders helped us develop and successfully introduce a model of leadership within the O&A Team that serves us well, sharing the load among all who participate.

Current members of the O&A Ministry Team are Casey Williams, Kerry Armstrong, Ann Canady, Gilbert Jones, and Pam

Webb.

The team is also excited that we may soon have available to us a quarter time staff person working in partnership with the Institute for Welcoming Resources.

The team will be spending some time recruiting new members and team leader(s). If you have time and talent that may enrich this team, please contact Casey Williams (Team Member) at cwilliams@gladalliance.org or David Downing (Human Resource Team Leader) at dtdowning@gladalliance.org for more information.

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GLAD Council selects Cy Rowell and Linda Gardner to fill open terms

- *David Downing, Human Resources and Nominating Team Leader*

One of the tasks of the Council, with the help of the Nominating Committee, is to select persons to fill un-expired terms of office when it is necessary for individuals on the Council to resign in mid-term. With the recent resignations of Steven Baines and

Tonja Gerardy, the Nominating Committee and the Council took unanimous action on the regularly scheduled conference call on Tuesday, September 19th, to add the following two persons to the Council.

CY ROWELL is a retired professor from Brite Divinity School. He has been a member of the GLAD Alliance for a number of years and has attended several GLAD events. Living in Ft. Worth, TX, he will be invaluable in helping with the planning for the GLAD Alliance event held prior to the next General Assembly. He is a

very intentional straight ally of the GLBT community!

LINDA GARDNER lives in Fullerton, CA. She is Moderator of the Regional Board of Directors of the Pacific Southwest Region. Linda has significant skills in helping organizations and groups deal with their priorities and mission. She is a wonderful supportive ally of the GLBT community.

Both of these additions will add to the present skills of the GLAD Council in significant ways! We welcome them onto the Council!