



# crossbeams

A publication of the Gay, Lesbian, and Affirming Disciples Alliance, Inc.  
Issue #77 April 2007

[www.gladalliance.org](http://www.gladalliance.org)

## **Nominating Committee fowards Ben Gerardy and Jill Kirchner as nominees for the Alliance Council**

**Ben Gerardy** is a retired pastor, living in Winston Salem, NC, which helps balance the council with an East Coast presence.

Ben attended Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis where he received an M.Div. and then to San Francisco Theological Seminary for his Doctor of Ministry degree. He served as a U.S. Army Chaplain with service in Viet Nam, Germany and in the U.S. He has served small churches, as Associate Regional Minister in Kansas, and as Executive Regional Minister for Central Rocky Mountain Region and the Regional Minister of the Utah Region.

Ben has been effective in helping congregations he has served to become Open and Affirming. The congregation he is currently serving is to vote on that issue very shortly.

Ben has been active on the Support and Advocacy Team and has attended a number of GLAD events through the years. He is the father of Tonja Gerardy, whom many members know from her work as a Council member.

**Jill Kirchner** is the Associate Minister at University Christian Church in San Diego, an Open & Affirming Congregation, where she has served almost 11 years.

Prior to serving University Christian Church, Jill served as Director of Youth Ministries at a

Presbyterian Church in Riverside while teaching in a private school in Redlands. Jill holds a B.A. degree in Liberal Studies from the University of California at Riverside, a Master of Divinity degree from Yale University, and a Doctorate of Ministry in Preaching from Chicago Theological Seminary.

Jill has traveled on mission trips to Zimbabwe, Kenya, India, and most recently Honduras. Jill's passions include her pets (dogs Amen and Alleluia, cat Spirit), traveling, nature, golf and tennis.

She has been active in GLAD events and especially in GLAD-Pacific Southwest Region Events where she served as Keynoter at the biennial event in 2006. She is a lesbian who is not totally "out," but comfortable with where she is at this time. Jill has a DMin degree, is an excellent speaker, and sought after by women's groups, regional events, and congregations where she has preached to rave reviews.

Jill is excited about serving on the GLAD Council because she seeks to create a church of radical inclusivity, a place where the Holy Spirit unites the most unlikely of people together.

---

## **Crossbeams On-line**

There's always more news at [news.gladalliance.org](http://news.gladalliance.org).

- Ex-Gay Survivor's Conference, June 29 - July 1
- Transfigurations: Transgender Photo Show

Send your e-mail address to [crossbeams@gladalliance.org](mailto:crossbeams@gladalliance.org) and we'll let you know when the next Crossbeams is on-line.



## **Jesus' Diner...**

- where the weary find rest
- where all are welcome
- where there's always room for another

## **Jesus' Diner...**

... is GLAD's theme for the Ft. Worth, TX, General Assembly, July 21-25, 2007.

## **Schedule of Events**

### **Preparing the Feast:**

#### **GLAD Alliance Pre-Assembly Event**

Saturday July 21  
University Christian Church, Ft. Worth, TX

### **Sharing the Feast:**

#### **Jesus' Diner Booth**

Assembly Exhibit Hall

#### **Open & Affirming Aftersession**

Sunday July 22

#### **Youth and Young Adult Aftersession**

Monday July 23

### **Celebrating the Feast:**

#### **GLAD Alliance Banquet**

Tuesday July 24  
Renaissance Worthington Hotel,  
Ft. Worth, TX

More information at  
[www.jesusdiner.org](http://www.jesusdiner.org).

---

## Call for Nominations: Council Election To Be Held By Mail

For 2007 and the third time in GLAD's history, the Council will conduct the election of Council members by mail ballot. A mail ballot process is permitted by the Design and Covenant, GLAD's governing document.

Prior to 2005, GLAD elected Council members at its annual Events. Generally, Event attendance has ranged from 50 to 80 participants and not all were GLAD members. In 2005, GLAD conducted its first election by mail ballot resulting in participation by about 100 members.

By electing Council members by mail, the entire membership (approximately 225), not just those who attend an Event, will have the opportunity to participate in the selection of Council members. By enfran-

**GLAD Alliance Inc**  
**PO Box 44400**  
**Indianapolis IN 46244-0400**

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



### «Expiration»

nation must be received by May 25, 2007.

- The nomination, whether submitted by email or U.S. mail must include:
  - ◇ your name and contact information,
  - ◇ the name and contact information for the person nominated,
  - ◇ your statement that the person nominated has given permission to be nominated and is committed to serving on the Council, if elected, and
  - ◇ a paragraph prepared by you or the nominee describing the nominee's background and experience and a brief statement of his or her interest in serving on the Council.

To be valid, a nomination must be made by a member of record on May 1, 2007 and the nominee must be a member of record on that date.

chising all members in the election of Council members, the current Council believes GLAD members will develop a broader interest in the "business of being GLAD Alliance" thereby resulting in a stronger and more vibrant organization.

As indicated elsewhere in this issue, the Nominating Committee, in accordance with the Design, has nominated two individuals for the two positions on the Council that will be open following the General Assembly. In addition to these nominations, members may submit additional nominations to be included on the mail ballot by following this process:

- Before submitting a nomination, obtain the permission and commitment to serve on the Council of the person you intend to nominate.
- Email your nomination to [glad@gladalliance.org](mailto:glad@gladalliance.org) or mail to Nominations, GLAD Alliance, P.O. Box 44400, Indianapolis, IN 46244-0400. Your nomi-

In addition, GLAD's Design requires that no more than five members of the council be of the same gender and no more than five be clergy. The current members of the council who's terms continue include three men, three women, and one clergy. Thus, for the 2007 election, there are no mandatory requirements about the gender or clergy/lay status of the nominees.

However, the Alliance Council strives to maintain balance and diversity on the council in other ways. Of the 6 council members who will remain next year, four are lesbian or gay, none are bisexual or transgender, one is African American, one is Hispanic, one is a young adult, none are of retirement age.

All valid nominations will appear on the mail ballot that will be sent to members of record on or about June 5, 2007 by U.S. mail with instructions for returning a valid ballot by July 2, 2007.