



crossbeams

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



Jesus' Diner...

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

Why Jesus' Diner?

"Share the Feast" is the theme of the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Building on that theme, the GLAD Alliance seeks to build Jesus' Diner.

At Jesus' Diner we challenge ourselves to participate in the inclusive Gospel, to embody Jesus' extravagant welcome to all persons.

At Jesus' Diner we seek to model that extravagant welcome to the whole church.

Plan on joining us as we build Jesus' Diner in Ft. Worth, TX, July 21-25.

More information at www.jesusdiner.org.

Grand Opening

Jesus' Diner is
Open for
Business

Grand Opening Specials

Early Bird Special Combo Plate

Includes Pre-Assembly Event and Banquet

\$50 Before June 15

Preparing the Feast

Pre-Assembly Event

Saturday July 21
University Christian Church

Early Bird Special: \$20 until July 15

\$25 After July 15

Celebrating the Feast

Banquet

Tuesday July 24
Renaissance Worthington Hotel

Early Bird Special: \$35 until July 15

\$40 After July 15

Tickets Available at:

<http://www.jesusdiner.org/>

Prior to July 1, checks can be sent to:

Jesus Diner Tickets
GLAD Alliance
P.O. Box 44400
Indianapolis, IN 46244-0400

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

Assistance Offered, Assistance Needed

You can contribute to the Chuck Carpenter Leader Development Fund when you register for Jesus' Diner.

Students and Seminars can request assistance for attending events and travel from the fund at info@jesusdiner.org.

Do you have time or talent to offer at the Assembly to help with GLAD Activities? Contact Mark Johnston and Matthew Chastain, Planning Committee Co-Chairs, at info@jesusdiner.org.

Discernment in Texas and Around the Country

J. Cy Rowell, a member of University Christian Church in Fort Worth, TX, and a member of the GLAD Alliance Council, brings us this report:

For several months laypersons from two churches in Fort Worth, TX have been meeting monthly to share their supportive concern for the ordination of gay and lesbian persons. Recently they have moved to systematic study of discernment using William

Paulsell's *Listening to the Spirit: a Handbook for Discernment*. More recently an elder in University Christian Church who is leading a small-group leader training series asked me to suggest adult study materials to be examined by that group. They wanted to see how what they were learning about small groups in the church applied to available adult curriculum resources. I suggested *Listening to the Spirit*. And what did they find there? A section on Bible study that spoke directly to their needs as small

group leaders - "Alexander Campbell's Seven Rules of Biblical Interpretation." These rules from 1835 made Bible study become even more vital for these leaders.

So thanks to the initiative taken several years ago by Park Avenue Christian Church that resulted in the work of a fourteen-person committee "what is the message to our church as we relate to gay and lesbian Christians?" The resulting handbook is making a contribution far beyond its

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intended purpose. And yes, the monthly sharing group is finding the resource very helpful.

... and Karen Barr, GLAD Alliance Discernment Ministry Team Leader, who has been working with the General Church to facilitate the discernment process throughout the Church, brings this report:

The Discernment Ministry Team understands the need to continue our efforts until the task group for resolution 0514 [renewing the General Church's commitment to discernment] is in a position to

take over. Since discernment is a general church program and not a GLAD program that is the most appropriate group to be promoting the use of the material.

Jan MacKenzie reported that the Alabama/N. Florida region's Commission on the Ministry had gone through a discernment process using the *Listening to the Spirit* material. She reported that members of this group who had not previously thought there was need for any discussion are now looking for ways to take this back

to their congregations. Bob Shaw reported that there may be a test case for the Indiana Commission on the ministry in the near future and this has provided some "teachable moments" which he has been in a position to take advantage of.

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