



crossbeams

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

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www.gladalliance.org

Rhue and Vazquez to help GLAD Build Jesus Diner

The Gay, Lesbian, and Affirming Disciples Alliance will emphasize widening the welcome among all racial and ethnic groups of Disciples during its Pre-Assembly Event, Banquet, and Aftersessions at the General Assembly in Fort Worth, TX.

GLAD brings Jesus Diner to the General Assembly, a place which proclaims "All God's Children Served." At Jesus' Diner, GLAD challenges its members to participate in the inclusive Gospel and to embody Jesus' extravagant welcome to all persons; At Jesus' Diner GLAD seeks to model that extravagant welcome to the whole church.

GLAD's Assembly activities include presentations by **Rev. Jessica Vazquez**, community organizer in Chicago, and anti-racism trainer for Disciples, and **Dr. Sylvia Rhue**, Director of Religious Affairs and Constituency Development with the National Black Justice Coalition. GLAD will also host Jesus Diner in the Assembly Exhibit Hall and Aftersessions for Open & Affirming Congregations and for youth and young adults.

"We preach a gospel of extravagant welcome that embraces the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community," said Moderator Patricia Case. "Yet, like a lot of other mainline church institutions, GLAD has a disproportionately white membership. We have to ask ourselves what that is about, and how we can more faithfully witness to the rest of the church the call for unity in diversity," she said.

Rev. Vazquez, who once served as staff in the Disciples Reconciliation Ministry, will lead the GLAD Alliance Pre-Assembly event to be held at the University Christian Church in Ft. Worth on Saturday July 21. She will introduce the organization to the Disciples anti-racism, pro-reconciliation movement.

Dr. Rhue will speak at the GLAD Alliance Banquet on Tuesday July 24 at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel in Ft. Worth.

Rev. Jessica Vazquez Torres is an ordained minister with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). From 1999 until the Spring of 2006 she served as General Staff in the Office of the General Minister and President. A graduate from the University of Central Florida in Orlando, FL, and Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, IN, she currently serves as National Religious Outreach Coordinator with Interfaith Worker Justice in Chicago, IL. She is also an Anti-Racism Core-Organizer/Trainer with the Disciples of Christ in Indianapolis, IN, and Crossroads in Chicago, IL. A "1.5 generation" Latina of Puerto Rican descent, Rev. Vazquez Torres is an older daughter, older sister, someone's beloved and aunt to the most beautiful girl in the world. When asked why she dedicates her ministry to the transformation of social institutions she says: "So that my niece can experience a church

Jesus Diner Specials

Have you bought your tickets for Jesus' Diner yet?

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



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community where her identity as a young Latina woman of Puerto Rican and Mexican descent are affirmed and nurtured.”

Dr. Sylvia Rhue is the Director of Religious Affairs and Constituency Development with the National Black Justice Coalition. Previously, she was employed as the California Freedom to Marry Coalition Manager, the Director of Equal Partners in Faith, and she worked with the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights. A native Californian, she graduated from UCLA with a Masters Degree in

Social Work and received a Doctorate in Human Sexuality from the Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco. Dr. Rhue is the co-producer of the award-winning film "All God's Children," an African-American response to homophobia. The film looks at the relationship of lesbian and gay African Americans to their churches, and includes strong statements of support from prominent African-American religious, intellectual and political leaders, including Jesse Jackson and Cornel West.

More on the Web

Find more at:

news.gladalliance.org

- What Does GLAD Believe?
- Resources from the American Psychological Association Now Available Through GLAD Website
- Remember Who Made You: A one act, one man play

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



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Maria 'Cuca' Perez is New Moderator Elect

As GLAD Alliance members gather in Fort Worth, Texas, Saturday, July 21, we won't be saying good by to Moderator Patricia Case, but she will be saying good-bye to her title as Moderator and passing the title to Maria Perez. Case will take on the task of Secretary of the Council for the remainder of her term.

Case will serve as Moderator until the end of the Assembly, allowing Perez to prepare for her

new role. "The move prepares the way for the Council to take important next steps in helping GLAD widen the welcome among Disciples" said Case.

More than a year ago, the Council charged the Moderator with helping the organization develop stronger relationships across the life of the church, particularly among communities of color.

In the long-term, GLAD Council leadership will be critical to keeping momentum behind the effort to bridge historic and cultural gaps between the

LGBTQ community and communities of color among Disciples.

"This relationship calls for a leader with Spanish/English language skills and for a leader known well and trusted by the racial/ethnic communities of Disciples," Case told the Council.

Perez, who is bilingual, served as moderator of the National Hispanic Convención, a position that placed her in leadership of Hispanic Disciples all over North America.

(more at news.gladalliance.org)