



crossbeams

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Michael Kinnamon Nominated as General Secretary of the National Council of Churches

The National Council of Churches has announced that Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon, a Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) clergyman and a long-time educator and ecumenical leader, is the nominee for General Secretary of the National Council of Churches (USA).

Dr. Kinnamon became well known to GLAD when his nomination to become the General Minister and President of the Christian Church became controversial because of his membership in GLAD. His nomination ultimately failed in large part due to this controversy.

If affirmed by the council's Governing Board and General Assembly next month, Kinnamon will become the Council's ninth general secretary since its beginnings in 1950.

The National Council of Churches was founded in 1950. Its 35 member faith groups — from a wide spectrum of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, Quaker, Evangelical, historic African American and Living Peace churches — include 45 million persons in more than 100,000 local congregations in communities across the nation. Its contributions to social justice have been a hallmark from its earliest days to the present: A social justice creed created in

1908 by the NCC's predecessor organization, the Federal Council of Churches, formed the basis of the New Deal legislation of the 1930s; last year, the NCC was instrumental in the passage of minimum wage legislation nationally and in 11 states.

Kinnamon was General Secretary of the Consultation on Church Union, which became Churches Uniting in Christ, from 1999 to 2002. He was executive secretary of the WCC's Commission on Faith and Order from 1980 to 1983 and had a major role in drafting the World Council of Churches' major planning document, "Toward a Common Understanding and Vision of the WCC."

According to the press release from Eden Seminary, Dr. Kinnamon states that he is "committed to continuing the social witness of the council, but also to the faith and order emphasis. What I want to stress is that a council of churches isn't just an agency that does things for churches; it's a community of the churches themselves. Because of their life together, they can't be as they once were—they must engage each other in depth and with accountability. Part of my role will be to encourage that the member churches begin to pray for one another and know one another at a deeper level than simply across a meeting table or picket line."

He has been the Allen and Dottie Miller Professor of Mission, Peace and Ecumenical Studies at Eden Theological Seminary since 2000. He was professor of

Theology and Ecumenical Studies at Lexington, Ky., Theological Seminary from 1988 to 2000 and was dean of the seminary from 1988 to 1998.

Michael Kinnamon is a member of the National Council of Churches Governing Board and chair of the Council's Justice and Advocacy Commission. He has overseen the commission's development of resolutions and statements on a wide range of justice and peace issues and was the primary drafter of the NCC's Strategic Plan drafting committee over the past three years.

Michael Kinnamon has been active in the mission and ministries of the Christian Church and has been a frequent speaker at Disciples and United Church of Christ national and regional assemblies, ministers gatherings and special conferences including the GLAD Alliance, Disciples Peace Fellowship, and the North American Pacific Asian Disciples.

If affirmed by the NCC Governing Board and General Assembly during their meetings November 5-8, 2007 in Woodbridge, N.J., Kinnamon will assume his new responsibilities in January 2008.

Link to the press releases from the National Council of Churches and Eden Theological Seminary at news.gladalliance.org.

Holy Relationships Midwest Conference

The Holy Relationships Midwest Conference, coming to Indianapolis November 2-4, will continue the grassroots movement of story-telling and theological reflection begun several years ago. This movement is committed to bringing people of diverse backgrounds and stories together to share, study and worship as people of faith on journeys that encounter and embody holy relationships.

Holy Relationships is sponsored by a broad coalition of LGBT faith programs including the Human Rights Campaign Religion and Faith Program, the UCC Coalition, and the Pacific School of Religion Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies.

Conference organizers share that "We are learning together that holy relationships are those engaged with unconditional love, mutuality, intimacy, trust, boundaries and accountability. We can proclaim this because people of diverse backgrounds are claiming the space to bring

together our stories, scripture, and tradition's witnesses. Through these encounters, we seek to name and equip more of these qualities that glorify our God. We find renewal at the roots of our call to advance inclusion in faith communities."

Registration for the conference is available at www.holyrelationships2007.com/

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



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GLAD Council to Gather in Arizona

The GLAD Council will gather next month near Phoenix AZ for its annual leadership retreat. All council members and team leaders are invited to gather for two days of planning, visioning, and (everybody's favorite) budgeting. The council will be working to continue the anti-racism pro-reconciliation work engaged at the General Assembly Event in Ft Worth. Another major task for the

weekend will be initiating planning for the 2008 annual event.

Now would be a great time to send any suggestions for the upcoming year to glad@gladalliance.org.

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

GLAD's Mark Johnston Featured in DisciplesWorld

Many GLAD members already know that Mark Johnston, former GLAD moderator and currently GLAD's Communications Team Leader, rides his bike hundreds of miles every summer to raise money for AIDS care and research. Recently DisciplesWorld featured this effort on their website.

Link to the full story from news.gladalliance.org.