

What has GLAD been up to lately?

2014-2017 Strategic Vision of the GLAD Alliance

Supporting the mission of the GLAD Alliance and responding to the call of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to become a people of grace and welcome to all,

the GLAD Alliance commits itself to:

- **increasing the number of Open & Affirming Ministries**, creating communities of grace and welcome, including congregations, regions, higher education institutions, seminaries, ministry partners, and general units;
- **educating and supporting the Open & Affirming Ministries** with resources to expand their pastoral care of LGBT persons with renewed commitment to bisexual and transgender persons;
- **empowering the Open & Affirming Ministries** and the members of the Alliance to respond to justice issues such as marriage equality, employment non-discrimination, and opposing bullying;
- and, to enable this plan, **expanding the resources of the Alliance** by increasing individual membership, contributions, and volunteer involvement.

For more information go to www.gladalliance.org or contact Mark Johnston at mark@gladalliance.org.

The Mission of the GLAD Alliance

We, the GLAD Alliance, are members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), called to join in God's work of transforming the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) into a just and inclusive church that welcomes persons of all gender expressions and sexual identities into the full life and leadership of the church.

Recent Goings On at GLAD

- At the GLAD leadership retreat in February, the GLAD council committed to a Strategic Vision **renewing GLAD's commitment to welcome and justice.**
- GLAD was instrumental in bringing General Assembly Resolution 1327, "Becoming People of Grace and Welcome to All," to the 2013 Orlando General Assembly. **This resolution has sparked much conversation around the Christian Church and encouraged many congregations to begin moving towards becoming Open & Affirming.**
- GLAD recently hired an Executive Director of the Open & Affirming Ministry Program, Rev. Mark Johnston, Ph.D., whose focus is to further the Mission of the GLAD Alliance, **allowing GLAD to be more proactive in seeking out congregations and ministries ready to become Open & Affirming** and providing advice and resources to congregations wherever they are on their welcoming journey.
- GLAD has recently hosted **Welcoming Church events in Houston and Kansas City**, with plans for more, where church leaders have learned about the importance of becoming Open & Affirming and the resources available to get there using a grace filled process.
- GLAD is **making plans to be present at several regional assemblies** this

year, as well as the National Convocation Biennial Session, North American Pacific Asian Disciples Convocation, and Quadrennial.

- GLAD's **recently updated website** makes it easier than ever to find the resources you and your congregation need. The website, www.gladalliance.org, also provides up to date news and event information, as well as posts, sermons, and reflections from Disciples on LGBT related topics and concerns
- GLAD publishes the newsletter Crossbeams monthly to **inform members of GLAD's activities**, happenings among Open & Affirming churches, and new resources.
- GLAD **participates with ecumenical partners** in the Institute for Welcoming Resources to create and distribute quality material to educate and inform.



How Can I Participate?

There are several ways you can join in the work of the Alliance!

- Become a member of the Alliance
- Contribute regularly to the work of the Alliance
- Volunteer your time and talent to the work of the Alliance

Where Can I Join?

To become a member of the GLAD Alliance go to contribution.gladalliance.org.