



GLAD Alliance
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Gay, Lesbian, and Affirming Disciples Alliance, Inc.
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*Setting a place at the table
for persons of all gender expressions and sexual orientations.*

November 2016

Dear Friend,

With your support, the GLAD Alliance is working to set a table where are welcome.

As I travel around the country I hear stories about how this work is important to all of us, and I hear stories of how you so deeply want to engage this work.

- “You are working to build a church where my daughter is welcome.”
- “How can our church support the LGBTQ youth who are homeless in our community because their parents’ church taught them that LGBTQ is not acceptable?”
- “Finding an Open & Affirming Church saved my life!”

I have heard stories of transgender people who have joined our Open & Affirming Churches and found a community that made life worth living. I have heard stories of families who sought out an Open & Affirming Church so that they know their children will always be loved by their church, come what may as they grow up. I hear of the work you want to do, welcoming your neighbors who have been told that their God does not love them.

I want to tell you about a couple goals I have as I look towards the new year. I want to work to continue connecting our churches to the resources they need to build a church where all are welcome. I want to involve you more in this work, since I can’t do this alone. I want to build up an organization that can be present at every regional assembly and major meeting of Disciples. And I want to build up a trained group of volunteers who can mentor welcome in congregations on the journey towards becoming Open & Affirming.

Yes, that’s a lot of work! And I won’t accomplish it in a few weeks, nor can I accomplish it alone. You will be seeing more information about volunteer opportunities in our Crossbeams newsletter soon.

This work also cannot be accomplished without financial resources. The GLAD Alliance is not funded by the General Church. We are a stand-alone non-profit organization. That means it is your contribution that supports the work of the Alliance.

So I ask: Will you join the GLAD Alliance this year?

Everything helps, a few dollars or many dollars. You can join using the enclosed envelope or at <http://contribution.gladalliance.org>.

And as always, thank you for your support, your prayers, and your work in your congregation and region building a church where all are welcome at the table.

Sincerely,

Rev. Mark Johnston Ph.D.

Executive Director, Open & Affirming Ministries

GLAD Alliance

Rev. Mark C. Johnston
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