



GLAD Alliance  
PO Box 44400  
Indianapolis IN 46244

Gay, Lesbian, and Affirming Disciples Alliance, Inc.  
www.gladalliance.org  
glad@gladalliance.org

*Setting a place at the table  
for persons of all gender expressions and sexual orientations.*

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Dear Friend,

November 2014

- *A father expresses his gratitude for the Open & Affirming Ministry Program, "**You're working to build a church where my daughter will be welcome.**"*
- *A mother from a Disciples congregation contacts GLAD's Open & Affirming Ministry Program **desperate to find congregations in rural areas** where her friends can attend with their LGBT children. Too often, there isn't one.*
- *A father talks of the Open & Affirming Disciples congregation and **the life-saving welcome he found for his 10 year old transgender son.***
- *A young Disciples pastor tells his story of coming out to his congregation while in seminary, a story that included receiving from his pastor an envelope full of pictures of him at the church, torn to shreds, **and the statement that he is no longer welcome.***

The world needs Open & Affirming churches. Behind every story of affirmation and acceptance is a story of pain and rejection. For every 'it gets better' story there is a story of how bad it is.

And many of these stories don't get better. *Rolling Stone* magazine recently reported on **the rising number of homeless gay teens who are cast out of their homes by religious families**. The statistics on young LGBT people, lacking the support of family and church, who get caught in substance abuse, homelessness, and suicide remain frightening. Without family support, LGB youth are 8.4 times **more likely to report having attempted suicide**, 5.9 times more likely to report high levels of depression, 3.4 times more likely to use illegal drugs.

The Alliance works with you to build a just and inclusive Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that welcomes persons of all gender expressions and sexual identities into the full life and leadership of the church. **Join us in this work.** Let us end the stories of rejection and increase the stories of love, acceptance and affirmation in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

**GLAD has been working diligently.** We hired Rev. Dr. Mark Johnston as Executive Director of GLAD's Open & Affirming Ministry Program in July 2013, and since then **24 ministries have been added**. Dr. Johnston is working with pastors and members in our churches, connecting with members at regional assemblies and convocations, **to show our congregations how to become Open & Affirming in a deeply faithful and grace filled way.**

**Yet the need is still great.** The 122 Open & Affirming congregations in the Christian Church is a mere 3.5% of our churches. We have challenged the Open & Affirming Ministry Program to bring that number up to 5% by the 2015 General Assembly in Columbus, and to 20% by the 2017 General Assembly in Indianapolis.

Join with us as we work together to meet this need. **This ministry is funded by our members, not by the General Church, and we need your support.** Turn this page over, join the GLAD Alliance, and work with us to build a just and inclusive Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that welcomes persons of all gender expressions and sexual identities into the full life and leadership of the church.

Sincerely,

Karen Barr  
GLAD Council Moderator

Rev. Mark Johnston, Ph.D  
Executive Director  
Open & Affirming Ministry Program

### GLAD Alliance Membership Contributions

Join us in the work to build a just and inclusive Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that welcomes persons of all gender expressions and sexual identities into the full life and leadership of the church.

***The Alliance is funded by the members of the Alliance and contributions from Open & Affirming congregations. The Alliance is not funded by the General Church. We need your support!***

**Contribute to GLAD online:**

**<http://contribution.gladalliance.org>**

**Or mail your contribution to:**

**GLAD Alliance Inc.  
P.O. Box 44400  
Indianapolis, IN 46244**

**Other ways you can help:**

- Make an ongoing contribution to GLAD. A monthly contribution of \$10, \$25, \$50 or more enables us to continue our work. This is easily done online at <http://contribution.gladalliance.org>.
- Ask your friends at church and your family to join GLAD.
- Work with your congregation to meet our Open & Affirming Congregation Challenge. (Use this shortlink for more information: <http://wp.me/P3OMYh-Dr>)

The amounts below are suggestions. Please be generous, and at any contribution level, we thank you for joining us as together we build a Christian Church that welcomes all.

Individual Membership: \$45 or more per year  
Couple Membership: \$80 or more per year  
Student/Low Income Membership: \$15 or more per year  
(With your contribution you are a member of GLAD for one year.)

When mailing your contribution, please provide this information:

Name:	_____
Partner's Name:	_____
Address:	_____
City / State:	_____
Email:	_____
Congregation:	_____

GLAD is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and your contribution may be tax deductible.