



A Daily
Publication of:



Affirmation

United Methodists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
Transgender, and Queer Concerns

April 29, 2008 General Conference 2008 Fort Worth, TX Issue #7

We All Need To Work On This

by Gary Shephard

I frequent a vegan eatery here in Fort Worth called Spiral Diner. Yes, here in the heart of cows and cowboys and steak houses, we actually have a vegan eatery. And yes, it's been here since 2002 and just try getting into the place Sunday after church.

Recently at Spiral a t-shirt showed up for sale: "If You Want Something Done Right...You Have To Do It Together".

That sums up how this church thing needs to work.

We don't want to decide anything by a vote, really. Voting implies a winning side and a losing side. One side triumphant, one side bruised and wounded.

That's not what we want. That's not church with a small "c", that's parliamentary process King of the Hill.

We need to really listen to each other. We need to acknowledge the truth of God's magnificent creation. That there are some things that are still beyond explanation, amongst them why some people are born lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, or queer. This isn't something that's a matter of voting. It's a matter of listening with our hearts instead of with our preconceived notions or a firm belief in what someone told us 50 years ago.

We don't want to win votes here. We want to get to the point where the vote really isn't necessary. We want it to just be a formality to get the bad language out of and the good language into the Discipline.

We all have to work on that together. We're all in this together.

Help us get the discriminatory language OUT of the Discipline!

Some of the erasers got lost in the shipping process. Sorry if you didn't get one.



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Dear Friends:

Those receiving the 4/29/2008 newsletter in hard copy at GC will be receiving it printed on 5 ½" x 8 ½" B4 Ultra Lava card stock. (We couldn't get card stock in orchid on short notice.) The decision to do the newsletter for one day in this format was driven by a creative decision to attach a rainbow colored eraser to the lower right hand corner of the page.

Unfortunately, we couldn't attach a rainbow eraser for each of you to the PDF.

Gary Shephard
Co-editor
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