



Affirmation

AN INDEPENDENT VOICE FOR:
UNITED METHODISTS FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, AND QUEER CONCERNS
PO BOX 1021, EVANSTON, IL 60204-1021 * UMAFFIRMATION@YAHOO.COM * WWW.UMAFFIRM.ORG

Volume 31 Issue 1

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**You are invited to
JOIN AFFIRMATION FOR A WEEKEND OF
RETREAT and RENEWAL**

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND
Friday, September 1, 2006 (5 PM) to
Monday, September 4, 2006 (noon)**

COME AND ENJOY A TIME AWAY FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH THROUGH EXPERIENCES OF GOD AND COMMUNITY AROUND THE THEME OF EMBODIED QUEER THEOLOGY.

Our retreat guides will be:

**Rev. David Meredith - Pastor, Broad St. UMC, Columbus, OH; Convenor,
Reconciling Ministries Clergy; Member, Affirmation Council
and**

**Jeanne Hoeft - Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care, Saint Paul School of
Theology.**

at LaSalle Retreat Center, St. Louis, Missouri

La Salle Retreat Center is located on 180 acres of wooded hills and open valleys – which includes abundant lawns and pathways. It is run by the De La Salle Christian Brothers, a group of lay religious men devoted to education. The facilities include a Chapel, meeting and dining rooms, and private bedrooms with a single bed, desk and sink in each room. Bed linens, blankets, towels, washcloths and soap are provided. Showers and restrooms are centrally located on each floor. All indoor space is smoke-free, smoking in designated outdoor space provided.

We'll arrange transportation from the airport (about 30 minutes drive Southwest of the airport)

Cost is \$190 (Includes three nights single room, all nine meals and programming).

Late Registration (After July 15, 2006) - \$200

See the Registration Form on page 4

Reclaiming Moral Values: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Agenda for 2006

LGBT rights advocates respond to Task Force call to action; convene in Oakland to strategize and prepare for crucial 2006 mid-term elections and build political power from the ground up.

Unprecedented political and legislative attacks bring activists from every corner of the country to Creating Change Conference.

More than 2,500 LGBT rights advocates converged on Oakland, Calif., Nov. 9-13, for the 18th Annual Creating Change Conference to strategize around the critical 2006 mid-term elections, and build skills to advance LGBT political power. Creating Change is the premier and largest annual meeting of the national LGBT community, where the agenda for upcoming battles is set.

The conference came on the heels of the 2005 off-year elections, which saw anti-LGBT ballot initiatives in Texas and Maine. Maine voters rejected a conservative-backed proposal to repeal the state's new LGBT rights law, providing the community with a much-needed victory. In Texas, however, voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage, and any other form of legal recognition for same-sex couples.

Task Force Executive Director, Matt Foreman, gave a keynote address, Reclaiming Moral Values: A Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Agenda for 2006, in which he laid out the strategic blueprint for the national LGBT community as it faces the political challenges of 2006.

"We must say over and over and over again, simply, directly, and unambiguously that anti-gay, anti-lesbian, anti-bisexual, and anti-transgender discrimination in all its forms is immoral," he said, later adding that it was time for the movement to demand that candidates and elected officials

(Continued on page 3)

Affirmation Newsletter

This Affirmation newsletter is a quarterly publication.

Only Affirmation's elected spokespersons may represent the official positions of this organization. Opinions here, signed or unsigned, are those of the writers, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Affirmation.

Articles for consideration for publication may be submitted to:
AffirmationNewsletter@yahoo.com.

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Co-Editors:

Jan DeLap & Diane DeLap

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www.umaffirm.org

E-mail: umaffirmation@yahoo.com

Mission Statement

As an independent voice of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer people, Affirmation radically reclaims the compassionate and transforming gospel of Jesus Christ by relentlessly pursuing full inclusion in the Church as we journey with the Spirit in creating God's beloved community.

Adopted January 2005



Affirmation National Council

John R. Calhoun
Oklahoma City, OK
AffirmationOK@aol.com

Diane DeLap
Wilmington, MA
Diane@DeLap.com

Rev. Peggy R. Gaylord*,
Co-Spokesperson
Binghamton, NY
607-723-4091
amiracletoday@prontetisp.net

(*Currently on extended personal leave.)

Rev. Nancy Giese
Columbus, OH
nlgiese@earthlink.net

Rev. David Meredith
Columbus, OH
614-237-3052
ohiodavidm@aol.com

Kathryn Mitchem,
Co-Convener
Tennessee

Jim Palmquist
Co-Convener
Macungie, PA
610-398-3074
bluemountain@entermail.net

Rev. Kenneth I. Rowe,
Co-Spokesperson
San Francisco, CA
kianrowe@gmail.com

A gay man
Los Angeles, CA

(Continued from page 2)

"who take our money and get our votes - and here, I'm largely talking about Democrats - stop running and ducking on gay issues."

Two of the LGBT rights movement's preeminent thinkers, Urvashi Vaid and John D'Emilio, co-presented a keynote address in which they took on big-picture issues related to the movement: its successes and failures, as well as how best to move forward. They encouraged the community to think beyond short-term gains. D'Emilio reminded attendees that conservatives suffered a stinging defeat 41 years ago with Barry Goldwater's loss in the presidential election, but the right wing built on its loss by making a long-term plan for the transformation of American politics, a plan which is just now coming to fruition. D'Emilio said that the LGBT movement needs to "start making its 40-year plan" for the cause of equality and justice.

Creating Change closed with a thunderous speech by Bishop Yvette Flunder, founder and senior pastor of City of Refuge United Church of Christ in San Francisco, who spoke to the separation many LGBT activists feel from spiritual traditions, saying, "Somebody stole God from some of us. Somebody reached down inside you and stole your spirit from you." But she encouraged activists not to abandon the spiritual dimension of the work they do for justice, saying, "Activism that is rooted in spirituality can bust Hell wide open." The audience wildly applauded Flunder's speech, and left the conference with her words resonating as a spiritual call to all justice-seeking people: "I challenge you, prophets, to stand up!"

The next Creating Change Conference is November 8-12, 2006 in Kansas City, MO. For information on the conference, go to www.creatingchange.org which will route you to the appropriate places on the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force website.

Affirmation is active in National Gay and Lesbian Task Force through the National Religious Leadership Roundtable, and co-spokesperson, Peggy Gaylord, attended the 2004 Creating Change Conference.

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Affirmation's Corporate Annual Meeting

The corporate annual meeting of Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns, Inc., will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., at the Park Central Hotel, 1010 Houston St., Fort Worth, TX 76102. All current members are welcome. The agenda will include election of members to the Board of Directors, financial matters, and any other item determined appropriate by the Affirmation Council. The Council constitutes the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

You are invited to JOIN AFFIRMATION FOR A WEEKEND OF RETREAT and RENEWAL

Retreat Registration (Deadline: July 15, 2006)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I will require transportation from the airport to the retreat center: _____

Local church name and conference (if available): _____

Registration: \$190.00 (Late Registration: \$200.00)



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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UMCalledOut>