

Religious Leaders for Justice
c/o 132 W South St, Suite 203
Kalamazoo MI 49007

Religious Leaders for Justice
and
Pacific School of Religion
Present

From Open to Affirming: Including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender People in our Faith Communities

A workshop for
Open & Affirming
Congregations
and
interested individuals

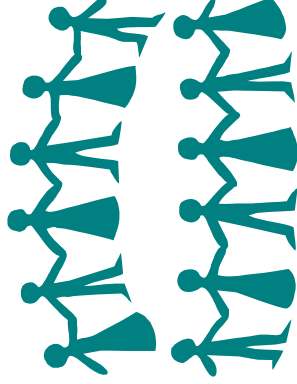


May 6-7, 2005

at First Presbyterian Church
321 W. South Street
downtown Kalamazoo

Purpose

- ▶ Exploring what it means to be a faith community that welcomes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender people
- ▶ Providing resources for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender people seeking a faith community
- ▶ Telling and hearing stories of our lives and our faith
- ▶ Meeting others on this journey and strengthening our commitments



Schedule

Friday: 7-9:30pm
Worship
Workshop 1:
Reading the Bible Ethically
Dessert & Fellowship

Saturday: 9am-4pm
Gathering
Workshop 2:
Welcoming Congregations
Lunch (provided)

Workshop 3:
LGBT People of Faith
Plenary: What Next?
Worship

Books will be available for purchase during breaks.

The "Shower of Stoles" project, honoring LGBT clergy, will be on display. (www.showerofstoles.org.)

The church is an accessible facility via the South St. entrance.

Free parking is located in back of the church.

Childcare is available.

Speakers

Mary Ann Tolbert, PhD,

Professor of Biblical Studies at Pacific School of Religion, and Executive Director of PSR's Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, is a respected scholar of the Gospel of Mark. An engaging and knowledgeable speaker, she has authored and edited numerous publications.



Bernard Schlager, PhD, is an Adjunct Professor at PSR and a Consultant for PSR's Center for



Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry. He is the author of numerous articles on medieval church history, and on the LGBT movement in American Christianity.

Workshops

1 - Reading the Bible Ethically in the

Homosexuality Debates explores biblical texts in their historical, social, and cultural contexts. We will discuss

- ▶ how to interpret ancient texts in 21st century society ethically and responsibly.
- ▶ ways in which we can respect biblical authority while allowing for the continuing movement of God's Spirit

2 - Welcoming Congregations: the

History of Inclusion explores ways in which congregations move from issuing proclamations of welcome to becoming genuinely inclusive. We will discuss the importance of congregational dialogue between LGBT and non-LGBT persons on issues of religion and sexuality.

3 - LGBT People of Faith provides an opportunity for LGBT people to share their experiences of rejection and acceptance in faith communities. After hearing a number of personal stories, we will take time for questions and discuss issues raised.

Sponsors

Religious Leaders for Justice

brings together leaders from various congregations in the Kalamazoo area to work for the inclusion of LGBT people in our faith communities and our world. religiousleadersforjustice@yahoo.com

Pacific School of Religion

, a graduate school for religious studies, is located in Berkeley, CA. CEUs are made possible by PSR and support for this event has been provided by an anonymous donation to PSR's **Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry**.

Phoenix Community Church

(United Church of Christ) received a grant from the Equality Fund of the **Kalamazoo Community Foundation** that has provided additional support.

Thanks to our sponsors for their generosity and commitment!

Registration

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Faith Community / Church: _____

Each group present will receive a DVD & book.

Dietary Needs: _____

Childcare (names & ages): _____

Fees: _____

\$20 Registration

\$20 Ministerial CEUs (3 credit hours)

Checks payable to Phoenix Church

Send with completed form to
Religious Leaders for Justice

c/o 132 W. South St., Suite 203,
Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

Or register by emailing the above information to

religiousleadersforjustice

@yahoo.com

Please register by April 30.