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GLAD ALLIANCE UNVEILS REDESIGNED WEBSITE IN TIME FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The GLAD Alliance, Inc., is pleased to announce that its completely redesigned website (www.gladalliance.org) is up and running.

“The new website features a bold, new look for GLAD and is filled with great resources to help individuals, congregations, and the larger church struggle more faithfully with the questions of hospitality and justice,” said the Rev. Wes Jamison, who chairs the Open & Affirming Ministries program for GLAD and who designed the site.

The redesign comes just in time for General Assembly, the biannual gathering of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) during which the GLAD Alliance offers educational and fellowship events to help move the church forward in the struggle for inclusion and justice.

“I invite everyone to check out our new website. We have many resources that will be valuable to individuals and churches,” said Karen Barr, moderator of the GLAD Alliance. “I especially want to highlight our pre-event. We have an excellent speaker and an excellent preacher who will teach us about gender and lead us in worship as we celebrate the wonderful diversity God has created.”

The Pre-Assembly event will feature a keynote presentation by Darlene Fike, a member of First Christian Church of Atlanta, Georgia, a psychologist and gender education specialist who also holds a Masters in Theology from Harding University's Graduate School of Religion. The Rev. Elise Elrod, an ordained Southern Baptist and United Church of Christ minister will lead the closing worship service at the event.

“We welcome persons who are already part of O&A congregations who want to see how to more fully affirm transgender and inter-sexed persons, persons who are part of congregations or other groups who might be considering becoming O&A, or those who are just confused when hearing about this. All respectful questioners are welcome. A link for more information and registration are on our new homepage,” said Barr.

The website redesign and the renewed emphasis on education and activism reflect a rebirth of sorts for GLAD.

“GLAD is not only alive, we're thriving and we want the whole church to know!” said Jamison.

GLAD has experienced significant growth within the last four years, welcoming over 30 new Open & Affirming congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on to its roster.

“We're in the midst of historic change in the church and society in terms of welcome for persons of all gender and sexual identities. Thirty years ago, GLAD was a secret organization out of necessity. Now, we're a voice of transformation and hope in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),” said Jamison.

The GLAD Alliance, Inc., had its beginnings in 1977 as a movement for sanctuary for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and has grown into an organization dedicated to partnering with the Holy Spirit in transforming the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) into a more just, welcoming, and inclusive church.

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For more information about this topic, please contact the Rev. Wes Jamison at [\(540\) 392-5632](tel:5403925632) or by email at WBJamison@gmail.com