

HIV/AIDS

Service of Evensong and Healing

October 14, 1990 • 7:30

St. David's Episcopal Church

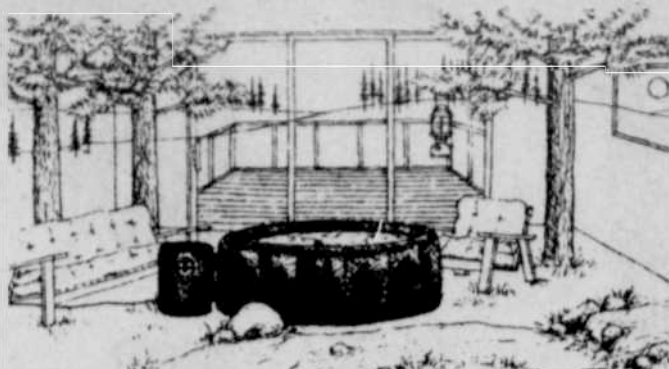
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For persons with HIV/AIDS and their family, friends and caregivers.

The Rt. Rev. Robert Ladehoff, Bishop of the Diocese of Oregon officiating.



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News from the Religious Front

BY REV. MATTHEW NELSON

PLGC denied recognition

It took five years for Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns (PLGC) to become a "Chapter Nine" (recognized) organization within the Presbyterian Church USA, the nation's largest denomination bearing the Presbyterian name.

Chapter Nine of the denomination's constitution bestows a quasi-official status on church-related interest groups which exist to promote their causes within the denomination. Currently, there are 23 such organizations.

By a lopsided vote of the commissioners, the 1990 General Assembly seeks to cut loose all of these special interest groups following a year of strife and contention over a PLGC educational program which was aimed to lesbian and gay teenagers. PLGC was reaching out to gay and lesbian youth, who, it says, "are especially vulnerable in our society because of rejection, hostility, insensitivity and even violence from peers, families, the media and the church."

Intended to provide information about homosexuality, guidance and reassurance for perplexed highschoolers along with lists of resources they can turn to for help, the material was first distributed at a Presbyterian Youth Triennium conducted by the denomination in 1989. As a Chapter Nine group, PLGC had the right to distribute the educational material and to meet and counsel with teenagers seeking information and guidance.

Presbyterian Elder James D. Anderson, national PLGC communication secretary, in his testimony to the Worship and Diversity committee said, "We wouldn't have had to distribute the brochures if the church had been faithful to its 1978 Task Force on Homosexuality report which asked the church to develop educational resources."

George S. Buse in the Windy City Times

Kansas City GLAD event

Oct. 5-8, The Gay, Lesbian and Affirming Disciples Alliance, and organization of laity and clergy of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, holds its 1990 conference at the Tall Oaks Conference Center, near metropolitan Kansas City. Themed "List as We Climb," the event will be keyed by the Rev. Jan Griesinger, co-moderator of the United Church Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns. For more information or to register, write to GLAD, PO Box 19223, Indianapolis, IN 46219-0223 or call Randy Palmer, (309) 755-2498.

The Second Stone

Episcopalians fight sodomy laws

Integrity, the lesbian and gay justice ministry of the Episcopal Church, has called upon the denomination to refuse to hold its triennial General Convention in states with so-called 'sodomy' laws.

At its national convention in St. Louis, held in conjunction with the Under One Roof Conference, which brought together various Episcopal social justice and social action ministries, Integrity passed a resolution calling

upon the General Convention of the Episcopal Church to "honor its commitment to full civil equality for lesbians and gay men, and to oppose heterosexism by meeting only in states which do not have 'sodomy' laws," beginning with the 1994 General Convention.

The resolution, authored by Integrity's outgoing national treasurer, the Rev. L. Paul Woodrum of New York, was a response to the perceived hypocrisy of the General Convention repeatedly calling for civil rights for lesbians and gays since 1976, but continuing to meet in states which palpably deny those basic rights.

The Second Stone

UFMCC seeks NCC membership

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches is making a second application for affiliation with the National Council of Churches. The UFMCC made its initial application in 1983 when the council membership voted to postpone its decision indefinitely. The vote was taken after some denominations threatened to leave the council if the UFMCC was admitted.

Religious News Service

Bishops may meet with Dignity

Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk and other leaders of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops are considering a meeting this fall with a group of Roman Catholic gays and lesbians.

The bishops have been asked to meet with Dignity-USA, said Pilarczyk's spokesman Ray George. The meeting could be in Washington prior to the bishops' Nov. meeting, George said. Pilarczyk is head of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Dignity-USA claims 4,200 members in 90 chapters nationwide.

Dignity-USA wants to meet with the bishops to discuss gay and lesbian rights, and the Catholic Church's position on homosexuality. Patrick Roche of Seattle, president of Dignity-USA, said he is encouraged that Pilarczyk has indication he would be receptive to some sort of discussion. "The archbishop has expressed reservations about meeting with Dignity because of fundamental differences...but he has nonetheless authorized preliminary discussions," Roche said.

Associated Press

Brethren/Mennonite convention

Oct. 5-7, "Building Our Community: Strategies for the '90s" is the theme for the Brethren/Mennonite Council for Lesbian and Gay Concerns international convention to be held in Philadelphia. Virginia Ramey Mollenkott, author of numerous books on theological, feminist and gay and lesbian issues, will keynote the conference. For more information write: BMC Conference, PO Box 65724, Washington, DC 20035.

The Second Stone

Rev. Matthew Nelson is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ.

just out
Oregon's gay and lesbian newsmagazine