

ioner, who was concerned about welcoming gay men and lesbians, asked him, "I'm all for allowing them to attend services, but do we have to let them teach Sunday school and everything?"

Jenkins, now undeniably one of "them" but unable to be open about it, was thrown into turmoil. At last it became clear to him that he would have to leave the ministry.

With a flair for drama, he arranged to preach one last sermon on New Year's Eve 1999. The church was packed. His sermon topic: "I am a self-avowed practicing homosexual."

As if saying the forbidden words was not enough, he chose his last act as a minister to be a bit of civil disobedience. That night, after preaching his sermon, in a private home he performed a commitment ceremony for two gay men. As he blessed their union he removed his stole from his shoulders and wrapped it around the joined hands of the two men. With that, Jenkins left the pulpit and his ministry.

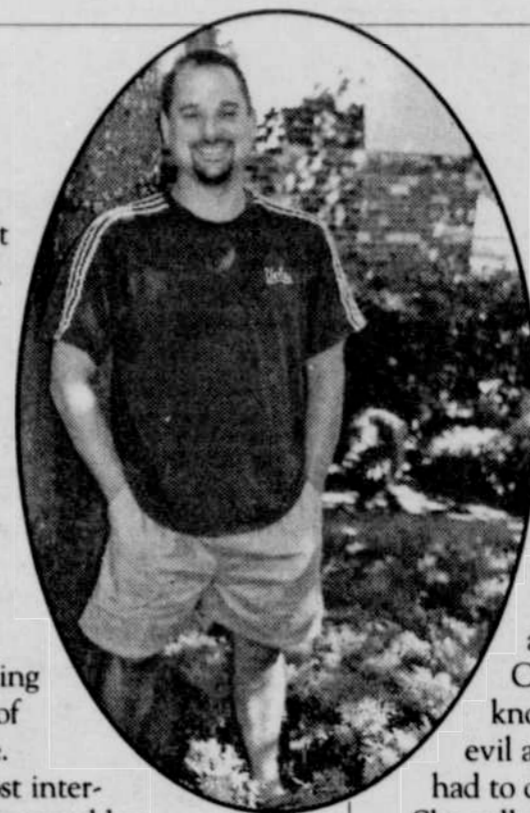
Although he hasn't found a permanent spiritual home, he nurtures his spirit at the Anawim Community, a nonaffiliated group of gay men who come together to celebrate their spirituality.

Rhodes describes coming out as a kind of conversion experience. Clearly, one of the most interesting questions is, What enables some people to make that change, to reject homophobic religious teachings and to embrace their gayness? The answers, although varied, are a source of inspiration and hope.

One of the most optimistic outcomes is that attempts at repression frequently backfire. Trista Jolly grew up in the Lutheran Church. Her earliest memories are of church, which she describes as a "safe place, another home," a place where she felt the presence of God. By the time she was in high school, she was feeling attracted to other girls and women, but she couldn't deal with coming out.

*"Measure 9 radicalized my parents, at least about homosexuality."*

—Trista Jolly



Doug Sandstrom knew he wasn't the enemy of God

Then along came 1992's Measure 9. Jolly was away at school, but she received the voters' pamphlet in the mail. She read every one of the arguments both for and against Measure 9. Seeing all of the hatred in the Oregon Citizens Alliance's words, and knowing her loving feelings were not evil and depraved, she knew what she had to do.

She called her parents and came out to them. Although tears were shed, they were quick to affirm their love for her. But now her parents were "in the closet" and felt alone and isolated at church.

"Measure 9 radicalized my parents, at least about homosexuality," Jolly says with some pride. Their congregation was divided and would not take a clear stand against the OCA.

After struggling with them, the Jollys left that congregation for another—still Lutheran—whose minister was outspoken in opposing Measure 9. That minister eventually would officiate at Jolly's covenanting ceremony, which joined her with her partner seven years ago.

An even more ironic example of foiled repression is Doug Sandstrom's story. He was fully enveloped by the Nazarene church. When he was just 2 days old he was adopted into a pastor's family, then after the death of his first adopted father,

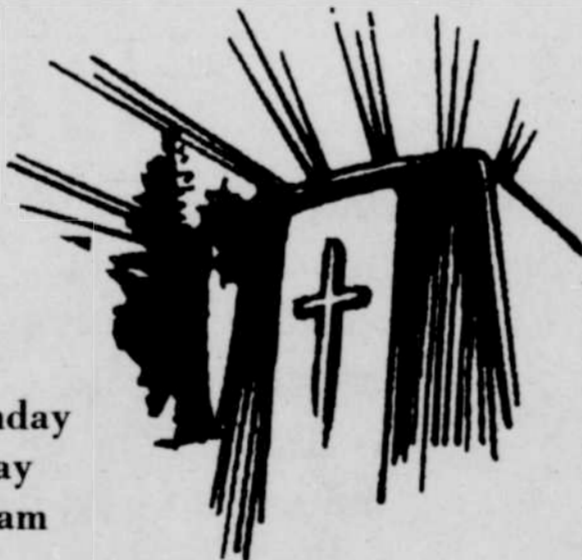
**We Are a Reconciling Congregation!**

We welcome everyone's full participation in our church!

**Morningside United Methodist Church**

3674 12th St SE Salem, OR 97302  
(located at the corner of 12th St & Harris in south Salem)  
503-364-5013 • email: munc@quik.com  
www.morningsideumc.org

Contemporary Service: 8:30am Sunday  
Traditional Service: 11:00am Sunday  
5th Sunday Blended Service: 10:30am



**KAIROS-MILWAUKIE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



**We Are:**

Welcoming and Affirming of ALL people  
Advocates for Peace and Justice in the World  
Stewards of Creation  
A Multi-Cultural & Multi-Racial Church

We invite you to participate in our community, to come to know us better and in the process deepen your own spiritual journey.

4790 SE Logus Rd • Milwaukie, OR 97222  
503.654.6770

*First Congregational United Church of Christ*



1126 SW PARK AVENUE  
228-7219

**University Park United Methodist Church**

*A Reconciling Congregation  
Proclaiming God's Love  
and Celebrating Diversity  
in North Portland*

Nursery Sunday School Adult Education Fellowship

*We would be delighted if you would worship with us at 10am Sundays  
Rev. Dr. Jeanne G. Knepper*

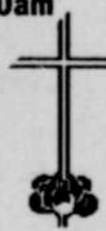
4775 N. Lombard Street  
Church: 503-289-7843 • Pastor: 503-709-4107

At University Park we not only respect but welcome diversity in race, gender, national origin, age, sexual orientation, physical and mental ability, economic status and profession. We believe all people are equal before God and entitled to God's grace and abundance.

**Open Minds Open Hearts Open Doors**  
The People of The United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship at 10:30am

Portland First United Methodist Church  
1838 SW Jefferson Street  
(at the Goose Hollow Max station)  
503.228.3195



An open, affirming church where everyone is welcome — straight, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender.

Worship Service and Children's Church School Sundays at 10:25 a.m.