



# gala news

THE LETTER

July 2007 – Volume 18 Issue 3

June 1, 2007

To The GALA Board of Directors:

It is with significant regret that I resign as President of GALA, effective immediately. GALA has been an important part of my life for several years. I ran for office simply out of my love for GALA and to give something back to an organization that had been such an important part of my life.

Unfortunately, my cancer diagnosis came at the same time as my taking office as President. The treatment for the disease is requiring nearly every ounce of my energy, often leaving me disoriented as to day, time and place.

I am so grateful to each of the Board members for your willingness to serve on the GALA board. I am especially grateful to Allan Fiscus for filling in for the last President as well as for me.

Again, please accept my regrets and good luck continuing the business of GALA.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Alan Zimmerman

## GALA Board Nominations

At the Labor Day Retreat we will elect President (who serves two years as President and one as Immediate Past President). At this point we do not have a nominee. Please send any nomination by e-mail to [acfiscusrn@comcast.net](mailto:acfiscusrn@comcast.net).

Adam Smith is willing to serve a full three-year term as member-at-large.

## GALA Retreat Chihowa Retreat Center “On a Wing and a Prayer”

### Friday, August 31

5:00-7:00 pm Registration  
7:00-8:30 pm Snacks  
8:30-10:00 pm Mixer/Campfire

### Saturday, September 1

7:45 am Devotions  
8:00-9:00 am Breakfast  
9:00-9:30 am Late Registration/Welcome  
9:30-11:30 am Sharing Our Stories  
12:00-1:00 pm Lunch  
1:00-2:30 pm Class with Blake Smith  
2:30-3:30 pm Class with Donna Ross  
3:30-5:00 pm Break/Swimming/Funtime  
5:00-6:00 pm Supper  
7:00-8:00 pm Songfest  
8:30 pm Movie Night

### Sunday, September 2

7:45 am Devotions  
8:00-9:00 am Breakfast  
9:00-9:15 am Announcements  
9:15-10:45 am Blake Smith Class  
11 am-12:30 pm WCN/Challenge Class  
12:30-1:30 pm Lunch  
1:30-3:00 pm GALA Annual Meeting  
3:00-5:30 pm Free Time/Silent Auction Ends!  
5:30-7:00 pm Banquet  
7:00-9:00 pm Variety Show  
9:30-11:30 pm Movie/Free Time

### Monday, September 3

8:00-9:30 am Pack it up, Brunch  
9:30-11:00 am Closing Worship  
12:00 noon Camp is cleaned and we head home

May 18, 2007

To: David R Brock

Greetings from the Welcoming Community Network! I am presenting a copy of the response from WCN to the Committee on Homosexuality and the Church Report submitted at World Conference. [See pp. 4-5 in the 5/07 GALA News.]

WCN appreciates the work the committee has done as we struggle with the issue of the full participation of persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities in the life & ministry of the church. If I or members of WCN can be of assistance to the committee in this endeavor, please do not hesitate to contact us. May God's Spirit be with you in this endeavor.

*Meredith Bischoff, President WCN*

Thank you, Meredith, for the spirit and content of the response to the COHC report to the World Conference. I will assure that it gets communicated to those members of the Committee who didn't receive it. I will also assure that it is passed on to those who will be charged with the ongoing reflection and study on the matter going into the future.

I have noted the affirmations to the committee and the Presidency, the reference to challenges and initiatives in other denominations, encouragement to take additional steps toward more inclusivity, and the offer to be engaged with church leaders in that process.

Thank you for the communication and for reference to WCN's website. I'll check it out! Best wishes to you in your work with WCN and GALA.

*In Christ, David R. Brock*

*Presiding Evangelist, Community of Christ*

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The Anglican Church of Canada  
Media Release, June 25, 2007

### **GENERAL SYNOD COMMITS TO PASTORAL CARE OF SAME-SEX COUPLES**

WINNIPEG -- General Synod Monday approved a statement from the House of Bishops urging the church to show pastoral understanding and sensitivity to all same-sex couples, including those civilly married. The statement also commits the House to develop pastoral strategies to give effect to the acceptance of gays and lesbians to whom "we are already committed by previous General Synod and Council of General Synod resolutions, House of Bishops guidelines and Lambeth Conference statements."

Bishop Patrick Yu of Toronto, one of the authors of the statement, said the question now is, "How do we move forward in a situation of no consensus? We bishops represent a diverse group. It's a fragile situation."

On Sunday, a motion to authorize the blessing of committed same-sex unions was passed by laity and clergy but defeated in the House of Bishops.

### **EMOTIONS RUN HIGH AFTER BLESSINGS DEFEATED**

*By Marites N. Sison, Anglican Journal, June 25, 2007*

WINNIPEG -- There were tears in the eyes of some, others bowed in prayer, and some quietly walked out of the plenary room shortly after the defeat on June 24 of the motion to allow the blessing of same-sex unions...

"I think they (the bishops) were trying to respond to what they heard in Synod, people wanting more study, time for discernment," said Bishop Fred Hiltz, primate-elect of the Anglican Church of Canada, who had voted in favor. "I have my own personal opinion, as you know, but my responsibility is now to work with this decision. There needs to be a pastoral response. We have a very divided church, and no doubt many, many people will be disappointed by this vote. I will try and reach out pastorally to those who are disappointed."...

Bishop Victoria Matthews of Edmonton, chair of the Primate's Theological Commission, said, "I don't think there were any winners. We know that people on both sides leave tonight with a profound sense of sadness that the body of Christ is broken."...

Donna [Ross] wrote, "I'm not so naive to disregard the political realities of the situation, but, for me, Christianity is not about political realities ... it is about Courage. This decision (or non-decision) is not courageous in any manner."

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July 13, 2007

### **DIGNITYUSA ISSUES NEW GUIDELINES ON THE PASTORAL CARE OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER (LGBT)**

Washington, D.C. – DignityUSA, the nation's largest advocacy group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Catholics, issued comprehensive new guidelines for pastoral care at its just-concluded national convention, held July 5-8 in Austin, Texas. The document was developed in response to pastoral guidelines released by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in November 2006, which Dignity views as deeply flawed and damaging.

Dignity's guidelines address not only questions of private and personal concern, but matters of public controversy such as same-sex marriage, civil rights and legislation, the adoption and raising of children, and immigration rights for partners of LGBT people.

DignityUSA President Sam Sinnett stated: "When the U.S. Catholic bishops issued their guidelines last November, they did not bother to consult with openly LGBT people, or even with their own diocesan ministries that work directly with LGBT people. In our letter, we draw on almost forty years of ministry with LGBT Catholics, and on the lived experience of thousands of LGBT people. Our guidelines were developed through a process of broad consultation throughout our organization and beyond over the past six months."

Spokesperson Jeff Stone said: "We hope that the release of this document will provide much-needed guidance to those who minister to LGBT Catholics and their families in parishes, diocesan ministries and elsewhere. We also hope that that it will help to inform the public conversation about issues involving LGBT people in which the Catholic bishops have taken such a visible and often negative role."

--[www.dignityusa.org](http://www.dignityusa.org)

**NEWS RELEASE:** May 25, 2007

Institute for Welcoming Resources, 612-821-4397  
810 West 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408  
Contact: Barbara Satin, Interim Program Director



**Welcoming Church Groups Name  
Anita Bradshaw  
as National Field Organizer**

Anita L. Bradshaw, Minneapolis, Minnesota, has been selected as National Field Organizer for a consortium of Christian denominational programs within the Welcoming Church Movement.

The religious programs participating in this faith-based organizing effort are the Association for Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests, the Gay and Lesbian Affirming Disciples and the Welcoming Community Network. The group members are part of The Institute for Welcoming Resources (IWR), a program of the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. As part of the Welcoming Church Movement, IWR works for the full acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the congregations of their choice.

IWR worked with these church related programs to obtain funding from the Arcus Foundation, Kalamazoo, Michigan, to support the national field organizer position and its work.

In her new position, Rev. Dr. Bradshaw will utilize the tools of grassroots organizing and coalition building to increase the number of welcoming congregations in the Disciples, Baptist, Community of Christ, Church of the Brethren and Mennonite traditions.

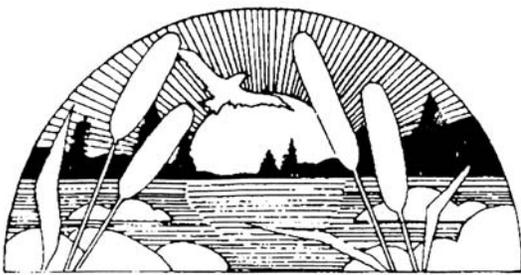
Rev. Dr. Bradshaw is a trainer and consultant in non-profit leadership and development with a special interest in churches and faith-based organizations. She is an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ and is a Minister-in-Covenant with Mayflower Community Congregational Church, UCC in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Rev. Dr. Bradshaw served as a faculty member of the theology department at The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University in the 2006 – 2007 academic year. She served previously as director of supervised ministries and adjunct faculty at Yale University's Divinity School, as well as professional staff in several non-profit and governmental organizations. She has also served as adjunct faculty for the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, Augsburg College, and the University of Saint Francis.

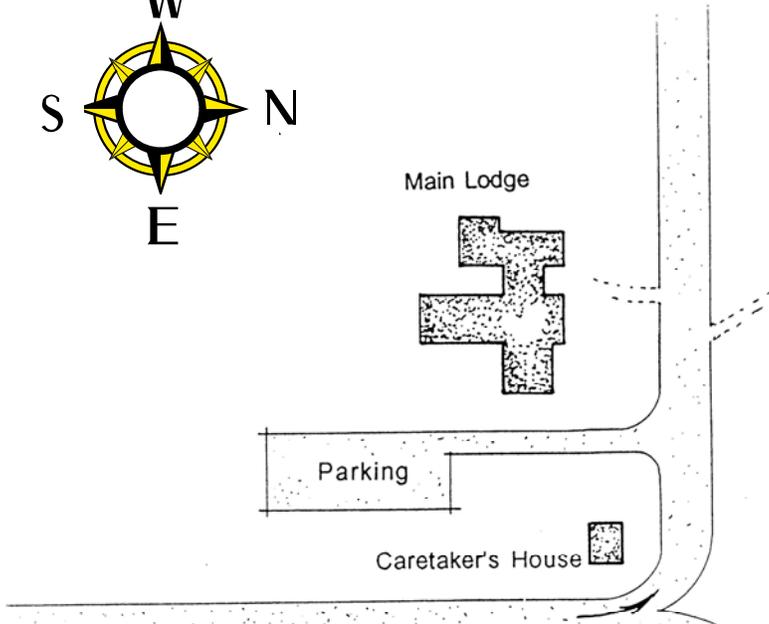
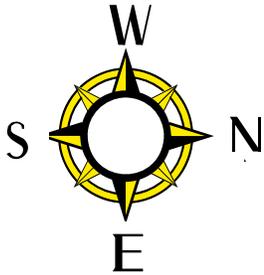
Rev. Dr. Bradshaw holds two advanced degrees from Yale University in theology and holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. She has served as a parish pastor, an interim pastor and an interim denominational executive.

Previous clients for her training and consulting work include FaithTrust Institute (formerly The Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence); The Minnesota Council of Churches; The St. Paul Area and the Minneapolis Area Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; The Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ; Music Ministry Alive!; Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers; The Roman Catholic Diocese of Richmond, Virginia; and the National Black Child Development Institute

In addition, Rev. Dr. Bradshaw has been an activist and educator in urban and social justice ministries. In 1999, she was awarded a Coffin-Forsberg Fellowship at Yale Divinity School in recognition of her work in those areas. Aside from her professional interests, she is actively involved in the arts. She was an incorporating board member of Opera Americana and currently sings in the Minneapolis-based One Voice Mixed Chorus.



# CHIHOWA RETREAT CENTER



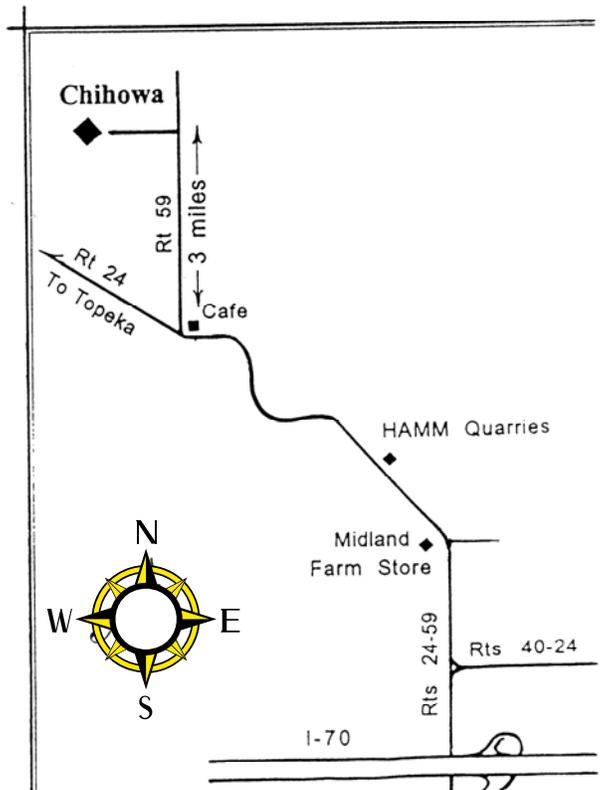
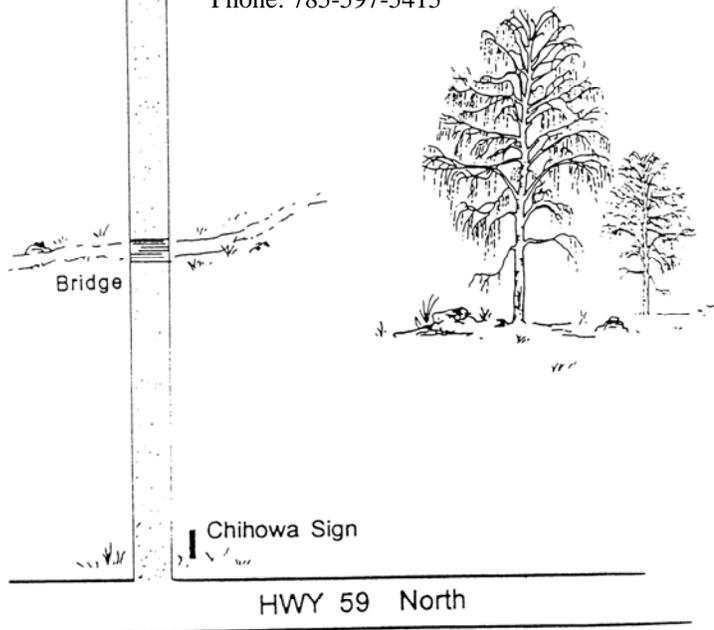
FOR RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Lori Weigand-Vaughan  
Midlands Mission Center  
10015 NW Ambassador Drive  
Kansas City, MO 64153-1499  
Phone: 816-221-4450  
Toll Free: 877-221-4450  
midlands@midlandsmc.org

RESIDENT MANAGER:

Mary Strickell  
3553 Osage Road  
Perry, KS 66073-9743

Phone: 785-597-5415



**2007 Camp Chihowa  
GALA RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How are you arriving to retreat? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you need transport from Airport? \_\_\_\_\_

Flight Information:

Airline: \_\_\_\_\_

Flight In: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Flight Out: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any special dietary needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Any Medical Concerns? \_\_\_\_\_

Retreat Costs:

\$150 per person Early Registration-- before August 22<sup>nd</sup>

\$165 per person Late Registration – after August 22<sup>nd</sup>

\*\*Private room cost: \$10 per night per person/couple

What room would you like? Regular or Private\*\*

Mail registration to: David Woosley, Camp Registrar

4704 McCormick St. Lawrence, KS 66047

Email Registration: [acfiscusrn@comcast.net](mailto:acfiscusrn@comcast.net)

Camp Address: 3553 Osage Rd Perry, Kansas 66073

Camp Phone Main Lodge: (785) 597-5703

**Join Or Renew Memberships Online!**

You can join, renew, or make gift contributions on GALA's web site, [www.GALAweb.org](http://www.GALAweb.org). If you have not yet paid your annual dues for 2007 or made your pledge, we invite you to do so now using this service!

GALA continues to need your support. Your gift, membership or contribution helps to:

- Produce and distribute our GALA newsletter
- Operate our website [www.GALAweb.org](http://www.GALAweb.org)
- Provide sponsorships for retreats
- Defray GALA's expenses

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**July 2007**

214 E. Hansen Ct.  
Independence, MO 64055

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2007 MEMBERSHIP?!**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Level** (U.S. dollars)  
\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$25) \_\_\_\_ Family (\$40) \_\_\_\_ Limited Income (\$10)

**I would like to make an additional contribution to advance GALA's outreach and educational goals:**  
\$50\_\_\_\_ \$100\_\_\_\_ \$200\_\_\_\_ or \$\_\_\_\_\_

*Contributions to GALA are tax deductible.*

**Please return to:** P.O. Box 2173, Independence, MO 64055

The GALA Newsletter is also available electronically at our web site, [www.GALAweb.org](http://www.GALAweb.org)

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