



## Special Election Issue

### Candidates For Secretary:

#### **Drew Chestnutt**

It was 31 years ago that I was born into the Community of Christ. I currently attend the Buffalo/Clarence Branch where I am an active member. I was ordained to the office of Deacon in 1998 and remain active in that role, most recently at the healing service in the Kirtland Temple. I also currently serve on the Branch Council and the Building and Maintenance Committee. It has been a wonderful experience for me to serve my church and I look forward to continuing that service through GALA.

Outside of the church, I was on the committee that coordinated the 2004 Human Rights Campaign's Annual Fundraiser Dinner in Cleveland, OH and also served as secretary of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Alliance (GLASA) at Cleveland State University working hard to make the world a more fabulous and accepting place for all people.

I am also a computer programmer which will be useful in promoting the mission of GALA in the 21st century.

I currently live in my hometown of Buffalo, NY.

#### **Clyde A. Frey, C.P.M.**

I am a child of God! He made me, just the way I am! I give praise to our Heavenly Parent for making me a 'child of diversity' at this time and in this part of the vineyard!

Baptized at an early age into the Community

of Christ Church, Clyde grew up in Fairbanks, Alaska and received a B.A. in Secondary Education, Social Studies from Graceland College, 1971; he also completed 30 semester hours in accounting and purchasing at Niagara University. He has two grown married children that reside in the Kansas City, MO area and three grandsons. Clyde & Nathan Phillips, his partner of ten-plus years, live in Buffalo, NY and are active in the Community of Christ, Buffalo-Clarence branch. Clyde is the Secretary for the branch and he participates in the Worship Commission planning services, providing ministry from the pulpit, and cooking for luncheons and fundraisers.

Clyde is active in various organizations in the Buffalo, NY area: AIDS Plus Fund of WNY, Inc., Board of Directors member for two years; produces the event, supervises packet sales and handles 'payouts' for GAY Bingo in Buffalo, NY. Funds are distributed to AIDS outreach agencies each month at Bingo so all bingo players can 'see' where the monies earned go.

OUTspoken For Equality, Inc., Chairperson for Bylaws & Policies Committee; this is a lobbying and activism organization in Western New York's LGBT community seeking same gender marriage in NY, passage of Gender Expression Non-discrimination Act, passage of Dignity for ALL Students Act, and an advocate for local LGBT issues. Clyde is a Marriage Ambassador and has lobbied in Albany, NY in the NY State Legislature.

Community Services Foundation, a.k.a. Imperial Court of Buffalo, Co-Chairperson, College of Monarchs. The organization raises funds in WNY and distributes them to AIDS outreach agencies annually. Past Monarch and past member of the Board of Directors having served as

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Secretary and Treasurer.

Previous involvement includes the National Association of Purchasing Management-Buffalo, professional organization, past President, Secretary and chair of numerous committees over a twenty year period. He served on the national Board of Directors for a two year term. Clyde received lifetime C.P.M. (Certified Purchasing Manager) designation in 2000 and has been the recipient of a number of awards at the local and regional level.

In reading the vision and purpose of GALA, Clyde found it to be a perfect 'fit' with how he interacts daily within the various communities in Western NY and respectfully requests your consideration and your vote for Secretary of GALA.

## **Candidate For Treasurer-Elect:**

### **Patricia Danielson**

Patricia Danielson lives in Oberlin, OH where she has worked 20 years for the FAA at the Cleveland Air Route Traffic Control Center in Oberlin. She is employed as a Management and Program Assistant in the Human Resource Department. She attended Graceland University 1970-72 and received her B.A. in Theology from Southwestern College, Winfield, KS in 2008. She is a member of Community of Christ and holds the office of priest and has been pianist/organist for Community of Christ congregations for many years. She lives with her partner, Geri, and their two cats and dog. She looks forward to an active role in GALA by serving as treasurer-elect to support GALA's goals and missions.

## **Candidates For Three-Year Member-at-Large:**

### **Douglas Graves**

After traveling for the past several years for work, I have settled in Burbank, CA. Though I will still have to travel at times for work, I will not be tied to a large project. I would like to use this time to serve my brothers and sisters in a way that many have served in the past. I hope that I could do so in a positive way.

Since becoming less nomadic, I have been able to serve as a staff member for SPECTACULAR the past two summers and attend the Burbank Congregation of Community of Christ. These have been wonderful for me and have brought me a greater appreciation of where I have been and hope for the future. I am looking forward to the journeys and blessings that GALA might bring to all people.

### **Charles A. (Chuck) Hewitt**

GALA is an important organization and serves an important function for the GLBT community. It holds special place in my heart. My partner Mike and I met at a GALA retreat in the fall of 1999 and have been together ever since. We had our wedding the following year at Peace Chapel in Kansas City. We hope to go to California in the near future to get legally married so we may register with the Church.

I have lived and worked in the Kansas City area for the past 20 years. For the past 5 years I have been employed by a small business as an accountant and handle all of the accounting aspects of the business. I also volunteer with the local schools as a "Youth Friend", and mentor a youth, meeting once a week for lunch. This will be my 4<sup>th</sup> year with the same student.

I was brought up in the Community of Christ Church and have always been a member. I love my Church, it is my home. That is why I am very active with my congregation and serve on the pastorate in Outreach Ministries. I have participated and completed the training for Welcoming Ministries and continue to educate myself, and others, on the welcoming process. I am currently helping our congregation become a welcoming congregation. I strongly believe that Mike, and I are making a big difference in the attitudes of the Church by just attending our congregation. There is a lot to be said about the power of presence, and becoming involved in the working of the congregation. This Church is my home I love it and have no desire to attend another denomination. That is why I am trying to help the church in its growth and understanding of the GLBT community, so we may truly become a part of the Community of Christ feeling safe and free to worship our heavenly spirit .