

"Towards a Welcoming and Inclusive Church"

September 19 – 21, 2008

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Hosted by Wake Forest Divinity School

A Training Resource for Congregations Affiliated with:

- Alliance of Baptists
- American Baptist Churches USA
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Church of the Brethren
- Community of Christ
- Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
- Mennonite Church USA
- Mennonite Church Canada
- But, anyone from any denomination or church is welcome

Perhaps you are a leader (lay or ordained) in a congregation which is considering becoming welcoming to lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered (lgbt) persons. Perhaps you are committed deeply to helping other congregations in your denomination become more welcoming of lgbt folks. Either scenario means that this training will be very helpful to you in honing your skills and gaining more knowledge about how to help congregations through those tough conversations toward a more fully inclusive church.

What to expect from this training?

The training has been designed specifically with congregations and their leaders in mind. We will explore topics which will help you to become a more effective leader in working with congregations on issues related to human sexuality and gender identity for the purpose of helping a congregation discern God's call to become more welcoming and inclusive, particularly of lgbt persons. Topics include:

- Faith-based community organizing techniques
- Congregational conflict theory and resolution
- Managing change in congregations well
- Effective strategies for helping congregations discern the call to be welcoming
- Building relationships for change
- Dealing with difficult conversations around biblical material, stereotypes, the "b" and the "t" questions, and other areas of concern

\$85.00 — Registration Fee

The registration deadline is September 12, 2008. Cancellation fee is \$25.00. No refunds for cancellations after September 12, 2008.

Lodging

Lodging will be provided at the Courtyard Winston-Salem University which is located at 3111 University Parkway, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27105. Their phone is 336-727-1277 and the website is: <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/intcy-courtyard-winston-salem-university>.

Rooms are \$89.00, plus taxes, for one to four persons. Room rates are not guaranteed after September 5, 2008. Every effort will be made to assist in matching roommates, but we cannot guarantee to provide you with a roommate(s).

Participants are responsible for making their own housing reservations with Courtyard Winston-Salem University Hotel. Be sure to tell reservations you are with the NFO Project to get the preferred room rate.

Other Housing Options

Limited host housing is possible on a first-come, first-served basis. Every effort to assist with transportation to and from the Divinity School will be made, but cannot be guaranteed.

Participants requesting host housing should check the box on the registration form indicating that request.

Airport

Greensboro/High Point (GSO) in Greensboro, North Carolina

Training Location

Wake Forest Divinity School is the location for the training. The Divinity School is located at 1834 Wake Forest Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27109. The website is: <http://divinity.wfu.edu/>.

Meals

- Dinner will be provided on Friday evening.
- Lunch will be provided on Saturday and Sunday.
- Please note on the registration form if you have any food allergies/restrictions or if you need vegetarian or vegan options.

How do I register?

Print and complete the registration form and mail it with your check for the registration fee, to the address below:

National Field Organizer
c/o The Institute of Welcoming Resources
810 West 31st Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

Make check or money order payable in US funds to: Brethren Mennonite Council

The registration deadline is April 17, 2008. Cancellation fee is \$25.00. No refunds for cancellations after April 17, 2008.

Registration Confirmation

You will receive a registration confirmation e-mail (make sure you give us an e-mail address) or regular mail (if you do not have e-mail access).

What Else Do I Need to Know?

- Dress is casual.
- Come rested and ready for a wonderful and intense experience!

Questions??

For questions or more information, contact:

Anita Bradshaw, National Field Organizer
nfo@welcomingresources.org
612/791-8217

⌚ Other considerations (accessibility, allergies, etc., please specify):

⌚ Host Housing Requested (not guaranteed)

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

⌚ **REGISTRATION FEE** (\$85.00) \$ _____

⌚ **DONATION FOR SPONSORSHIP OF SCHOLARSHIPS** \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Make check or money order payable in US funds to:
Brethren Mennonite Council

And send to:
National Field Organizer
c/o The Institute of Welcoming Resources
810 West 31st Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55408

See website page for registration and cancellation deadlines. Cancellation fee: \$25. No refunds after cancellation deadlines.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Postmark date: _____

Amount paid: _____

Contact ID#: _____

If you have questions, please contact:

Anita Bradshaw

612/791-8217

nfo@welcomingresources.org