

# The Kindred Connection

Newsletter of the Parents Reconciling Network  
3801 N. Keeler Avenue, Chicago, IL 60641 773-736-5526  
WINTER, 2010/2011 Edition



Parents Reconciling Network--PRN, an extension ministry of the Reconciling Ministries Network, is an outreach program for United Methodist parents and families of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons. "We envision a United Methodist Church which in both policy and practice accords all persons, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, full participation in the life of the church."

## **WATCHER, TELL US OF THE NIGHT. FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN**

Advent is "about learning not to be afraid of the dark and instead wondering with an open mind. An Advent hymn says, 'Watcher, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.' Jesus comes as the promise of light at night. He was born at night. And that's where his spirit meets ours. I can't say what this will mean for me, much less for you. But Advent asks that we face any night within or around us, and come to see it as the birthplace of unexpected opportunity 'just around the corner... waiting to change all the tenor of our lives.'"

From the United Church of Christ Advent **Devotional, *Take Back the Season,***  
*passage by William C. Green*



**"O H I O" (Barbara Olson, Helen Andrew, Carol Waymack, & David Meredith) Wolf Creek Resort, Huron, Ohio**

## **PRM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS IN HURON OHIO**

On October 17-19, 2010 the PRN Steering Committee held its semi-annual meeting at the Huron United Methodist Church. This site was chosen to help us review our accommodations for "Sing a New Song" the joint 2011 convocation and MFSA meeting, and to simplify the travel arrangements of our representatives to RMN, Joy Watts, and Helen Andrew, who attended the RMN meeting at the Wolf Creek Lodge in Huron, Ohio, preceding the PRN meeting.

At this three day meeting we worshipped with Huron congregation, and spoke to three adult Sunday school classes. We enjoyed the hospitality of members of the congregation who provided accommodation in their homes. We reviewed the new PRN brochures, "Our Transgender and Intersex Children" and a Spanish version of our English "When Your Child is Gay", and made plans for their distribution. Bob Swing was elected as the new Coordinator for PRN, succeeding Reg and Barbara Olson, whose terms as coordinators expired. Bob guided us through the revisions of PRN's *Vision and Mission Statements & Core Values*.

Worship was interspersed throughout the meeting, coupled with a review of Desmond Tutu's inspirational book, *God Has a Dream* with Reg offering meditations.



*Seated*, Reg, Marlene Crowder, Barbara Olson & Helen Andrew  
*Standing*, Bob Swing, Carolyn Pennington, Joy Watts, Carl Davis,  
 and Carol Waymack. *Not pictured* were Barbara and Vernel Carter,  
 Jim Evans, and Faith Buss

## Welcome to New PRN Conference Contacts

Two new persons have agreed to serve as PRN Conference Contacts. They are **Laura Curry Coffey**, of the Kentucky Conference, and **Blair Barbour**, of the Northern Illinois Conference. We now have conference contacts in more than half of the annual conferences. Thank you Laura and Blair, for volunteering to represent us in your area.

If our readers live in one of the following conferences we invite you to consider becoming a **PRN Conference Contact** person: Alabama-West Florida, Alaska Missionary, Central Pennsylvania, Dakotas, Florida, Greater New Jersey, Iowa, Kansas East, Louisiana, Memphis, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Alabama, North Georgia, Oklahoma, Oklahoma Indian Missionary, Red Bird Missionary, Rio Grande, SW Texas, Tennessee, Texas, Troy, Virginia, West Virginia, Western New York, Western Pennsylvania, Wisconsin

## WELCOME TO THE REV. JIM EVANS



The newest member of the PRN Steering Committee is the Rev. James M. Evans Jr., pastor of Crescent Avenue UMC in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is an active supporter of our PRN ministry. After a prolonged illness Jim's wife, Debra Louise (Gierhart) Evans, died Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2010. The Steering Committee surrounds him with their love and sympathy. Jim and Debra have two sons, James McCall Evans III and Cameron Evans. Jim has served at Hammond First; New Carlisle; Fort Wayne, Epworth; LaFontaine; Congress Street; and Walkerton, before coming to Ft. Wayne Crescent Ave. Church in 2005. He is currently serving as Publicity Chairperson for PRN.

## PRN in RMN

The Parents Reconciling Network is an "extension ministry" of the Reconciling Ministry Network, like the

## THREE THINGS MY GLBT CHRISTIAN FRIENDS WANT YOU TO HEAR

"This is a short but very inclusive piece by a straight, evangelical, Christian woman that may be very helpful in small discussion groups or SS classes as an opening to learning for those who continue to doubt. Thanks to Bob Swing.

There are several comments I hear repeated about my gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender friends. I could stand at a podium all day to dispel myths, clarify issues and question biased thinking. It usually can be reduced to three points that non GLBT ... people get stuck on *consistently*. I can say hundreds of thousands of words on the topic of the gay community, and GLBT Christians specifically, and the words will not penetrate the thinking processes of many people. The wall of *I-have-already-decided*, and often, ignorance, is already well constructed and the gates tightly shut.

If there is no little understanding in the three key issues, the conversation wraps in circles, tangles in frustration and dies in anger. Here is what my GLBT Christian friends want straight Christians to hear. If you cannot at minimum understand that there may be some authenticity in these statements, you will in all likelihood be cutting our quality relationship with your homosexual and transgender relations. Simply reduced:

1. **Translation.** The Bible has 5-7 verses that are associated with same sex behavior. Not one of those verses refers to mutually loving relationships. Not one. Every instance refers to sex in the context of idol/cultic worship, rape or violence, prostitution or abuse.

2. **Transformation.** You can indeed be a gay Christian. Profession of faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior followed by fruits of the Holy Spirit are indicators. The Bible says "whosoever" clearly.

3. **Creation.** People are born straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender (with a range of variation in this one). No one chooses orientation.

By Anthony and Kathy (CanyonwalkerConnections.com).

Reconciling Clergy, UMOG people of Color, and MOSAIC, ministries. We have two representatives who sit on the RMN board and represent our concerns and interests. They have asked us to consider what we want them to share at the RMN Board. Please share your interests with our RMN Reps Helen Andrew at Helen@ldandrew.com and Joy Watts at Joytwatts@sbcglobal.net.

## LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS



### Epworth Hosts Hymn Festival

Sent By Nancie Hughes, our PRN Conference Contact for the UMC California-Nevada Conference

In June, Epworth United Methodist Church in Berkeley, CA joined the Center for Lesbian & Gay Studies in Ministry at Pacific School of Religion, The Hymn Society in the United States & Canada and New Spirit MCC/UCC/DOC Community Church in presenting "A Heart to Praise Our God," a festival of sacred music and texts by gay and lesbian composers and poets.

Most of us are unaware of how profoundly our own means of expressing our faith depends on the language and music provided by members of the gay and lesbian community, many of whom were or are marginalized by the churches. But in a grand celebration of that legacy, informed by research done by Rev. Elder Jim Mitulski of New Spirit Church and by Epworth's Church Musician Jerry Asheim, we experienced a few of those hymns, anthems and organ pieces and gained an appreciation of their creators. Many of the hymns are old, familiar favorites; some date from more recent years. And a new hymn by Rev. Dan Damon of First UMC, Richmond was premiered. The Epworth Choir joined with the choirs of New Spirit Church and Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco.

### What's YOUR Reconciling Statement?

An article by Donna Hamilton, Chair of the Reconciling Committee, Epworth UMC, Berkeley, CA:

Every Sunday's order of worship, every Epworth newsletter, every weekly email from Pastor Odette, and other media that originate from Epworth United Methodist Church always contain our Reconciling Statement, which says, "We welcome all people on their journey of faith regardless of age, physical condition, race, gender, sexual orientation, or class, and support each other in our ministries to one another, the community, and the world." It's nice to see that. We know it sets Epworth apart. It's one of the ways we define our congregation.

But what's **your** Reconciling Statement? If you accept our church's Reconciling Statement as something you believe in, or have defined for yourself what you believe about God's unconditional love, about the responsibility to practice radical hospitality, about the goal of a truly inclusive church, can you believe that belief out loud?

Persons who visit Epworth may be familiar with the exclusion or marginalization of LGBT persons that other churches practice, and are surprised or suspicious to learn of a church with an inclusive welcome like Epworth's. This gives us all an opportunity to make our personal Reconciling Statement to persons we meet, greet, sing and pray and share refreshments with. Our perspectives vary depending on our situation, but most Epworthians can say one of the following:

### MARLENE CROWDER "GRADUATES"

After many years of dedicated service, Marlene Crowder has resigned from the PRN Steering Committee, due to limitations of health and other commitments. She will continue as the Indiana Conference Contact person. God Bless you Marlene. Thanks for all the tremendous work you have already done, and will continue to do.



Marlene at Steering Committee Meeting

### REVIEWS

*On Thundering Wings: Homosexuality, Love and the Church on Trial* by Ermalou McDuffie Roller

Everyone has a story! Everyone's story will reach someone's heart. I read recently that all of us would like to rewrite some part of our story, just tell the good parts! But then that would not be our story. When we write, it is the good, bad and ugly that leaves us vulnerable. Ermalou has made herself very vulnerable in her story. She intersperses her story along with the story of Greg Dell's trial.

As I read her story, I was reminded of how my life experiences shaped me and my values, and yes the causes that I am involved in. I was interested in the details of Greg Dell's trial. The time and money that the church expended! How many more before the church changes it's position. Her book is not a read for those who want life to be picture perfect.

Reviewed by Marlene Crowder, who tells us that Ermalou is a retired Elder from the Northern Illinois Conference and former wife of a gay man and mother of a gay son writing of her own experiences and the church trial of Greg Dell.

1. In my family the kid(s) is/are gay. They were raised in this church. The church is not irrelevant to them as adults.

2. In my family, the parents are gay. Our family relationships are honored here. The church helps us raise our kids.

3. My family is one of several different models of family represented in the Epworth family. We all worship, learn, serve and fellowship with one another in love.

Epworth takes its Reconciling Ministry seriously and endeavors to be BOLD. (Acts 4:29-31, where the believers pray, "Lord, grant to your servants to speak your word with all boldness," have their prayer answered. "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness." Thanks be to God.

## A Moratorium on Sexuality for General Conference?

A Letter to the editor of *UM Portal*, by Reg and Barbara Olson,

Kent Millard's idea that we should refrain from discussing anything that relates to human sexuality at General Conference, so that we might deal with other, perhaps "more important matters", may be an attempt to spare the Church from dealing with what has been seen as a divisive issue ... homosexuality. I fear that this proposal amounts to a "gag rule" on an issue that is very important to the life of the church. There is an "elephant in the living room" of the church. It smells bad, and it is dangerous, with its tusks and big feet.

The writer said the church should deal with "**life or death**" matters. Different issues have different levels of

### Sounding an alarm



salience for different people. Let me note why I believe that the church's stance re: homosexuality is a "**life or death**" matter. 1. It is **life or death** for those who are victims of gay bashing and hate crime murder. 2. This violence is inadvertently supported by a rejecting church. The perpetrators of hate crimes against glbt's often say they thought the Bible, God, their pastor, or the church sanctioned their actions. 3. **Spiritual death** occurs when a

person is told that God does not love them, and that they must be "trans-formed" sexually. 4. The suicide rate of teen lgbt's is much higher than the general population. 5. Parents of lgbt's mourn when they can't understand their child's orientation, they see the child ostracized, and they can't face possible stigmatization so even the parents stay "in the closet."

The church's rejection of lgbt people is a **life or death matter** for the church itself because 1. It is losing the leadership of gifted, talented, and sanctified persons who could be dedicated pastors and bishops. 2. It is losing the leadership of gifted, talented, and sanctified laity which could serve on church committees and commissions, church choirs, teach Sunday School, and even help lead the church through troubled financial waters (as the West Ohio Conference recently narrowly accepted the best qualified and committed candidate, a gay man, [by 28 votes] to be its conference treasurer. 3. It is losing the financial contributions of many persons who have the financial means to support it. 4. It is being unfaithful to the very Call of Christ.

Saying that the church should refrain from discussing its reaction to homosexuality is like telling Jesus not to preach about the poor (for fear of alienating the rich), or insisting that the church should have quieted the civil rights witness in the 1960's so it could maintain itself as a system of apartheid.

To gag those who would call the Church to inclusiveness is like a blind man's experience at a banquet. The church offers a veritable "feast" for sustenance—missions, evangelization, education, fellowship, and social action—all available to those in the Great Banquet Hall. But the Church, and those who would close the door to discussion about homosexuality are preventing those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, from gaining access to the feast. Are there more people outside?

Do we want to emasculate the Body of Christ? Should we insist on all becoming eunuchs? (Two very proper elderly ladies recently commented that their pastor's decision to adopt a child rather than bring one to birth, was such a nice, civilized way to have children.)

Homosexuality is related to human sexuality. I believe that homophobia is a direct outgrowth of sexism, the doctrine that men are (or should be) superior, while women were meant to be subordinate!

Discuss sexuality? I think the church should even study and develop a curriculum based on the Song of Solomon, and its difficulty getting into the sacred canon. Let's not be embarrassed to talk about an issue that is on virtually everyone's minds, television, computers and quiet talk. It may be a life or death matter.

## MINISTRY TO A MINISTER IN TRAINING

One of PRN's approaches is to provide support to lgbt youth where possible. When I received a phone call from a young candidate for ministry I spoke with him about our scholarship for glbt students. I was forthright in telling him that it is hard for a glbt person to become a United Methodist minister. This was the beginning of a pastoral relationship and a friendship.

Dr. Olson,

This is Michael. We spoke over the phone during the phone-a-thon. I wanted to drop you a line to again say thanks. While it appears your scholarship was not directed specifically to me, knowing the purpose you and your wife have placed behind it, honestly, nearly brought me to tears that night. I

spent several years out of the church when my home church (southern Baptist) asked me to leave after I'd revealed my struggles with my sexuality. Those years out of the church were probably some of the hardest and darkest I've experienced in life thus far. I lived with the deeply engrained belief that God hated who I was and that ministry was unbefitting someone like me. Hearing you tell me briefly that night about your daughter and how your family has come to grow and experience God in those difficult questions gave me some hope. Definitely something I've been needing as this semester, being my first, has been very challenging. It was just another way of God telling me that my call is genuine and I am worthy of ministry, only because He makes me so. Thank you for the conversation and the encouragement, and the honesty. It meant more than you may ever know.

I hope this finds you well. My love to you and your family.  
Michael

Dear Michael,

I really appreciate your message. Your story is a very poignant one indeed. We are glad that you have found support in a community of believers. Knowing that you are loved by God as you are, and that sexuality is a gift from God can help buoy you up in difficult times.

Barbara and I spoke with your president the first year he arrived at your school and told him that we thought he not only had responsibility to educate and support students of all sexual orientations, but that he also had responsibility to bring the UM Church into a place where it truly accepts all of God's children. I hope he is living out that challenge.

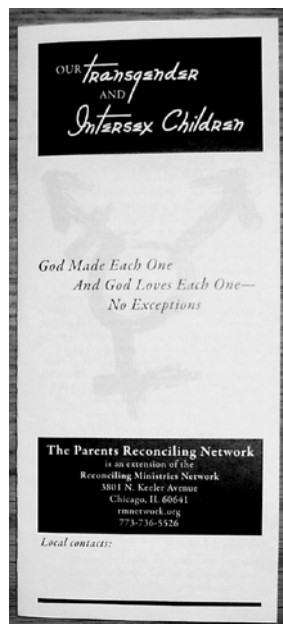
Let's keep up our correspondence, it can enrichen all of us. I attach a copy of our parents Reconciling Network Newsletter for your information. Our book, *Open the Doors!* that we sent to every delegate of General Conference 2004 is available at your library. You may want to look for it during your "spare" time.

God bless you, and may you continue to be a blessing to the Church.

With love and respect, Reg and Barbara Olson

## NEW PRN BROCHURE IS PUBLISHED

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Dr. Carol Waymack, member of the PRN Steering Committee, we now have a sixth informational brochure for PRN outreach. It is entitled "Our Transgender and Intersex Children. Dr. Waymack brought her professional and personal expertise to this project and has also received comments from several readers for changes to the original draft. This brochure will be downloaded



into the RMN website, printed for distribution to our constituents, and a slightly different edition made available to medical and social service professions. Well done Carol!

## BALANCE THE "PLAYING FIELD"?

The PRN Steering Committee has expressed concern about the need to support local pastors who may be in a tenuous "political" situation, feeling the need to balance the interests of gay and straight people. We should remember that the "playing field" is already unbalanced, and it is not enough to try to give supporters of glbt's and those who are not "equal time". When one group is already in a relatively powerless situation (like glbt folks) it is insufficient to treat them as people of equal authority. Our pastors need to hear us as informed and supportive people, willing to build productive relationships with them.

What do you think?



## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR THE HILTON AWARD

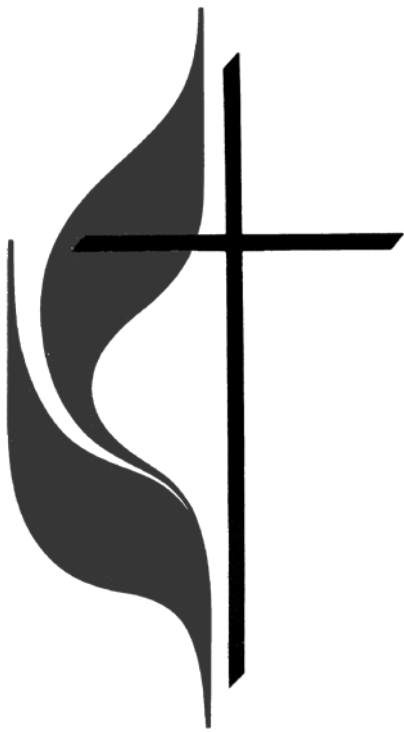
It is time to consider who may be deserving of the PRN Hilton Award again. If worthy candidates are chosen this reward will be presented at our convocation in Huron, Ohio in 2011. Please consider who you think deserves recognition for sharing "the Mission and Goals of Parents Reconciling Network to bring about the practice and policy of full inclusion of everyone in the United Methodist Church, especially GLBTQ persons." Use the nomination form at the end of this newsletter and return your nomination to the Hilton Committee Chairperson, CAROLYN PENNINGTON, 490 Dartmoor Drive, Eugene, OR 97401-5729

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH POLITY

At its Fall meeting in Huron our Steering Committee noted that it might be instructive to share an overview of how our UMC church is organized. If we hope to change its policy of exclusivity this information may be helpful. Can you pass this True/False quiz?

**T F 1.** The **LOCAL CHURCH** is the ultimate authority in the UMC. (Not really\* "United Methodists are sometimes asked where their church is headquartered, or what officer is "in charge." Deliberately, The United Methodist Church has no single central office, no archbishop, no pope. This reflects the representative nature of the church's organization - which also provides a system of checks and balances.")

**T F 2.** The **DISTRICT** unit is akin to a "county". (True "Groups of churches in a geographic area are organized to form a district, somewhat similar to the way cities and towns are organized into counties.")



**T F 3.** The **DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S** job is to look after the condition of church properties. (The DS does more than this – “the DS oversees the ministry of the district’s clergy and churches.”)

**T F 4.** The **ANNUAL CONFERENCE** runs the whole church in the United States. (False “The United States has 63 annual conferences which deal with their own affairs -- goals, programs and budgets; ordain clergy members as deacons and elders; and elect delegates to Jurisdictional and General Conferences.”)

**T F 5.** The **JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCES** have responsibility to elect bishops. (True + “The United Methodist Church is divided into five jurisdictions: Northeastern, Southeastern, North Central, South Central and Western. These provide some program and leadership training events to support the annual conferences. Every four years the jurisdictional conferences meet to elect new bishops and select members of general boards and agencies.”)

**T F 6.** **GENERAL CONFERENCE** is where legislation that effects every local United Methodist Church in the World is voted on. (True, but see # 8 below. “The only body that can set official policy and speak for the denomination is the General Conference.”)

**T F 7.** United Methodist **GENERAL AGENCIES** (boards, council, and commissions) are created by and responsible to the General Conference. (True For instance, “the General Commission on Religion and Race reviews and monitors the practices of the entire church to ensure racial inclusiveness.”)

**T F 8.** The “**CENTRAL CONFERENCE**” is found in Kansas City, Kansas. (False “ Annual conferences located outside the United States are organized into central conferences, much like jurisdictions. There are seven central conferences: Africa, Central and Southern Europe, Congo, Germany, Northern Europe, Philippines, and West Africa... Each central conference would publish its own Book of Discipline.”)

**T F 9.** The **UNITED METHODIST DISCIPLINE** contains our guidelines for inspiration and spiritual growth. (False While some may find the Discipline inspirational, it is

basically the rule book of the church, covering the church’s constitution , its doctrinal statements, general rules and social principles; and the structure and functioning of all the various bodies of the church. Discipline paragraph **161 G**, which says that homosexuality is contrary to Christian teaching, is considered by many to be the basic statement of the church on homosexuality. Also see other statements under “Homosexual persons” and “homosexuality” in the index.)

**T F 10.** The **COUNCIL OF BISHOPS** is the ultimate authority on church rules and regulations. (False “Bishops are directed to provide oversight of the entire church but *have specific leadership responsibilities in a geographical area*, called an episcopal area. All bishops [active and retired] are members of the Council of Bishops, which is required to meet at least once a year.”)

**T F 11.** The **JUDICIAL COUNCIL** determines the constitutionality of acts or proposed acts of the General, Jurisdictional, Central, and Annual Conferences. (True The Judicial Council is the highest judicial body or “court” of The United Methodist Church. Its nine members, comprised of both clergy and lay members, are elected by the General Conference for eight-year terms and receive no pay for their work.”)

\*See umc.org “Our Church”

and look under “Structure and Organization”.

Talk to your pastor about United Methodist Church polity and politics. Pastors want their congregations to be informed.

## ***BREAKING BREAD—A CONFERENCE AND A CONCEPT***

By Carol Waymack, PRN Steering Committee member

Recently, I traveled to Ohio to take part in a one day conference of RMN Board Members and other interested persons on October 13, 2010, at Sawmill Creek Resort in Huron, Ohio.

***Live out the conventionalism of a world-wide church with the clergy, laity and LGBT groups in the Central Conferences (CC’s) through communication and relationship building, identifying both unique needs and common cause.***



That’s Strategic Directive #3 identified by the RMN Board in 2010. And that’s what the Breaking Bread Conference set out to begin.

At General Conference (GC) 2012, it is anticipated that

over 40% of delegates will come from the Central Conferences, all the portions of the United Methodist Church outside of the United States. That's a lot of votes from outside the United States, having a big influence on us here in the US. While the goals of RMN have come closer and closer to being realized thru US delegates at each GC, the votes of the central conference delegates for justice for Gay, Lesbian and Transgender United Methodists have not been increasing. What can be done to reach central conference delegates in ways they can hear our cries for justice?

The Breaking Bread Conference involved the board and approximately 20 other interested RMNers from around the country, about 40 in all. A panel discussion featured insights from Elizabeth Tapia and Nestor Gerente, both Pilipino pastors, and John Makokha and Kapya Kaoma, both from Africa. Again and again, these four people supportive of the goals of RMN, gave similar messages:

1. Begin by establishing relationships. Take the time and effort to form and nurture relationships with African seminary and university students in the US. They may become Africa's future bishops. Continue to nurture mission contacts and go on mission trips. Maintain central conference contacts thru clergy exchange and UMW work. And look beyond 2012. Don't let the conservatives be the only ones to go to Africa. Nurture the established relationships with people met on mission trips and thru cultural exchanges and adoptions. Tell them our personal stories. If you maintain a connection with a central conference community, please let RMN national office know about your work. Send an email to [breakingbread@rmnetwork.org](mailto:breakingbread@rmnetwork.org).

2. Understand that the prime concerns of people in many of the CC's are extreme poverty, global health, ecologic degradation, human rights and trauma. Understanding homosexuality is not an urgent problem for them and, in fact, just talking about it may be viewed as shameful. LGBT issues will need to be linked to the above issues for progress to be made. (However, the legislation in Uganda making being gay a capital crime has made it clear that homosexuality is an African issue.)

3. Support already established mission efforts on behalf of LGBT people in the CC's, rather than beginning new ones. Efforts to get people in CC's to "come out" may put those people in great danger when well meaning Westerners leave. Acceptance will need to be based on education of families, especially mothers, thru the establishment and support of counseling centers.

Several myths about beliefs in the CC's were discussed.

- One is that homosexuality was a Western import, when, in fact, one of Uganda's former kings was well known for being Gay.
- Another is that advocates for gay rights in Africa are being paid.
- Still another is that being Gay is unchristian.
- Another is that homosexuality is a sin and a mental flaw.

Despite these myths and the seemingly overwhelming task before us for 2012, there is hope. The General Board of Church and Society, one of the UM churches more important

agencies is partnering with those in the CC's in training sessions concerning the Social Principles. This training, involving 1/3 women, 1/3 young people and some bishops and assistants present as well, is going on in South Congo, North Katanga, Central Congo, Sierra Leon, Russia, Philippines and Nigeria. One very conservative group has actually been banned from coming to South Congo. PFLAG is a presence in Africa. In Kenya, Rev. John Makokha is reaching out to college students and professors and is garnering support for GLBT folk, for HIV testing and for HIV counseling. He has a counseling center to teach families not to reject their GLBT children.

Resources for these programs are vital. It takes access to a car to be able to go get a young gay person who has just been kicked out of the home. It takes money to support the above educational efforts. It takes phones and personal to set up counseling centers to help families accept their GLBT children. It takes medical supplies to offer HIV testing. Let's figure out just how we can be supportive.

## PRN LEADERSHIP

### Steering Committee

Helen Andrew, Sleepy Hollow, NY, Recording Secretary  
Faith Buss, Minneapolis MN, Finance Secy.  
Vernell and Barbara Carter, Washington D.C.  
James Evans, Ft. Wayne, IN, Publicity Chair  
Barbara and Reg Olson, Monroe, OH, Meeting arrangements  
Carolyn Pennington, Eugene, OR, Welcoming, and  
Hilton Award Committee chair.  
Bob Swing, Knoxville, TN, Coordinator  
Joy Watts, Uniontown, OH  
Carol Waymack, Seattle WA

### Staff Member RMN

Carl Davis, Chicago, IL

### Advisory Group

Betty & Paul Beeman, Des Moines, WA  
Marlene Crowder, Fort Wayne, IN  
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John & Linda Lewis, Grand Forks Montana  
Jerry Longwell, Dallas TX  
Margaret Mallory, Dayton, Ohio  
Barbara McElroy, Arlington, TX

### Newsletter Editor Reg Olson

[reginald.olson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:reginald.olson@sbcglobal.net)

# HILTON AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Feel free to use another sheet for your comments

Name of **NOMINEE** \_\_\_\_\_  
Nominee's Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR** Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Your E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Your Connection to Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the following areas in which the nominee has made an impact on the:

Local Church \_\_\_\_\_  
Community \_\_\_\_\_  
School \_\_\_\_\_

Church District or Region \_\_\_\_\_  
Annual Conference \_\_\_\_\_  
General Conference \_\_\_\_\_  
With Individuals \_\_\_\_\_  
With Groups \_\_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe in a narrative the reason for your nomination of this person and please incorporate any of the areas checked above and include the impact of the nominee on these areas. Please describe fully your observation of the nominee's work and compassionate witness. The nominee should share the Mission and Goals of Parents Reconciling Network to bring about the practice and policy of full inclusion of everyone in the United Methodist Church, especially GLBTQ persons. (Please use as much space as needed to adequately describe the work of your nominee.)

Please return to the PRN Hilton Committee Chairperson, CAROLYN PENNINGTON, 490 Dartmoor Drive, Eugene, OR 97401-5729.

