



The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists

Associational

An Ongoing eNewsletter of Voice and Vision

Issue 53 ~ June 2009

AWAB June Events in Southern California

June 26-27, 2009 ~ Westin Hotel ~ Pasadena, CA

AWAB Business Meeting ~ Friday, June 26 ~ 1:30 p.m.

The biennial business meeting is a time for AWAB members to get an update about the work and mission of AWAB. Member congregations and organization were sent a mailing about AWAB by-law changes. Growth from a grassroots organization to a more professional association requires the revisions. Please join us Westin Hotel at 191 N. Los Robles.

Worship Service and Award Presentation

Saturday, June 27 ~ 10:00 a.m.

All are welcome in a service of worship in which everyone is invited to the table, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. For many this has become a highlight of the American Baptist Biennial Meeting, during which time the worship is held. Rev. Heather Rittenhouse, AWAB's Council chairperson, will preach.

There will also presentation of the Randle R. Mixon Award for Christian Service and the Barbra MacNair Award for Christian Witness.

The worship will be held at the Pasadena Westin Hotel at 191 N. Los Robles, adjacent to the Pasadena Convention Center. Immediately following there will be a time of fellowship with snacks and light food.

Stan Hasteley and Kathy Stayton Selected as Award Recipients

Honolulu, HI, June 15, 2009 - The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists (AWAB) announces Stan Hasteley as the recipient of the Randle R. Mixon Award for Christian Service and Kathy Stayton as the recipient of the Barbra MacNair Award for Christian Witness.

The Randle R. Mixon Award for Christian Service is given to an individual whose work has helped to increase the inclusion and affirmation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons within Baptist bodies and society as a whole and through work and ministry has opened doors to others that might otherwise be shut out.

Through his ministry and work with the Alliance of Baptists, Stan Hasteley has help create a place where LGBT Baptists and their families feel welcomed and affirmed. The Alliance has taken progressive and prophetic steps in affirming same-couples wishing to marry at a time when most faith bodies have done the opposite. As he retires from the Alliance, the AWAB Council wishes to acknowledge Stan's ministry and work. Even in retirement, Stan will continue to be a voice to be heard. He plans to work on writing the history of the Baptist Joint Committee and on the founding of the Alliance of Baptists for its' upcoming 25th anniversary. Unfortunately, Stan will not be able to be present to accept the award in person.

The Barbra MacNair Award for Christian Witness is given to an individual whose life has inspired understanding and acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people by opening dialogue that would not otherwise be

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About Associational

Associational is published monthly by the Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists, an organization of churches, groups and individuals that advocate for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons with Baptist churches.

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Chris Boisvert, Editor

240-515-8664, mail@wabaptists.org
PO Box 545, Kensington, MD 20895

there and by example, helping to advance the affirmation of everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Kathy Stayton has served on the AWAB Council as both Chairperson and Secretary. She has worked tirelessly for social justice issues around the inclusion of LGBT people within the church and for broader LGBT civil rights. Kathy has worked locally through her long time congregation, Central Baptist in Wayne, PA, but also regionally and nationally through groups such as SoulForce. Kathy has represented AWAB in many capacities and continues to do so.

AWAB lifts up and acknowledges the gifts of Stan Hasteley and Kathy Stayton. The efforts and examples set by dedicated straight allies like Kathy and Stan have help broaden the affirmation of LGBT people within faith communities and increase the forward momentum toward equality in society.

The awards will be presented June 27, 2009, during the AWAB Worship Service which begins at 10:00 a.m.. The presentation and service will be held at the Westin Pasadena at 191 N. Los Robles, adjacent to the Pasadena Convention Center.

ABC/USA By-Law Revisions May Have Impact on AWAB Churches

Washington, DC June 15, 2009 -The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists, (AWAB) encourages all member churches that are also members of the American Baptist Churches, USA, to carefully review the by-law changes proposed by the ABC/USA. Some of the revisions move the ABC further away from historic Baptist principles, including local church autonomy and freedom of association. The ABC/USA proposed changes could make it more difficult for welcoming and affirming congregations to remain in the ABC. AWAB as an organization opposes changes that make it harder for AWAB congregations to remain in fellowship with the ABC and the regional association of their choice.

Central Baptist Church in Wayne, PA, has prepared two documents that should be helpful to ABC congregations evaluating the proposed ABC/USA by-law changes. The documents outline some of the dangers to local church autonomy and how the proposed ABC by-law changes could impact AWAB congregations in non-geographic Regions of the ABC. The ABC/USA revisions will be voted on at the biennial meeting of the denomination being held in Pasadena, CA, June 26-28, 2009.

<http://awab.org/docs/CBCRefABCByLaws.pdf>
<http://awab.org/docs/CBCBiennialStatement.pdf>

Proposed Public Witness Statement for ABC/USA Biennial

Although the new structure proposed for the ABC, to be voted on at the Biennial Convention in Pasadena, contains some exciting possibilities for 21st Century ministry according to Baptist Principles, like all human structures, it remains imperfect. This statement aims at laying groundwork for improving the means by which we will come together to discuss major issues and make statements of public witness going forward. It is being sponsored by the ABC of Metro Chicago. Biennial Delegates: please consider signing in support of bringing the statement up for consideration.

Rev. David Gregg

<http://awab.org/docs/ABCPublicWitness.pdf>

AWAB Has New, Newer Address

Although we recently announced a new Washington, DC mailing address for AWAB, our legal counsel has encouraged us to consolidate all AWAB business functions into Maryland to avoid securing multiple business licenses and submitting several state financial reports. We have therefore secured a new Maryland mailing address that is included below. We apologize for the confusion and know you understand this change was done for sound business reasons. Please change your contacts to reflect our NEW new address!

PO Box 545, Kensington, MD 20895

Associational is a periodic e-newsletter of the Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists, a network of 76 churches and hundreds of individuals who have joined together to advocate for the full inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons within Baptist communities of faith. Please forward this e-newsletter to interested friends. Copy relevant information into your organization's bulletin and newsletter. To subscribe, send an e-mail to subscribe@wabaptists.org with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. To be removed from this list, send an e-mail to unsubscribe@wabaptists.org with REMOVE in the subject line. To read back issues of Associational, go to: www.wabaptists.org/associational.htm.

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