



The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists

Associational

A Ongoing eNewsletter from the Executive Director

Issue 28 ~ January 31, 2007

From the Executive Director

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

2006 was a great year for AWAB! There was lots of energy and enthusiasm for the national and regional gatherings of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists. We hope to make face-to-face, person-to-person gatherings a priority for 2007 also!

In order to do this, we need your help!

- 1) Would your church/chapter be interested in hosting a gathering of W&A Baptists this year?
- 2) If you would like to have either Rev. Heather Rittenhouse* or me be a part of this gathering, would your church/chapter be willing to cover our costs for travel, accommodations and meals?

Please contact me immediately so that we can discuss the possibility of a gathering in your area.

*Heather is a member of the AWAB council, and is an extraordinary visionary and preacher.

Lovingly,
Ken Pennings
608-255-2155
ken@wabaptists.org

Career Opportunities

National Field Organizer

The Association for Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests, Gay and Lesbian Affirming Disciples, and the Welcoming Community Network, invite applications for a full-time National Field Organizer. This grant-based position will be housed in Minneapolis, MN. The National Field Organizer will utilize the tools of grassroots organizing and coalition building in order to increase the number of welcoming congregations in the Disciples, Baptist, Community of Christ, Church of the Brethren and Mennonite traditions. In collaboration with an Oversight Committee and the Director of the Institute for Welcoming Resources, the Field Organizer will develop ecumenical training materials, organize training events, and provide follow up support to participants. In addition, the Field Organizer will offer consulting services to the four collaborating organizations to assist them in program and organizational development.

Areas of Responsibility

Community Organizing - develop curriculum for an ecumenical training in

INSIDE

- **Rev. Ken Pennings, AWAB Executive Director** – pg 1
- **Career Opportunities** – pg 1
- **Revive Us Again! Gathering, Feb. 16-17** – pg 4
- **Baptist Heritage Tour, Mar. 16-17** – pg 4
- **New Ways Ministry's 6th Symposium** – pg 4
- **AWAB Seeks Nominations for Two Awards** – pg 4
- **Help Sponsor AWAB Hospitality Suite at Biennial** – pg 5
- **Give to AWAB from Your IRA in 2006 and 2007** – pg 5
- **First Baptist Church of Beverly, MA, Highlighted** – pg 5
- **Reflections from Our Friends at the Baptist Peace Fellowship** – pg 5

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.

© 2005, The Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists,
All rights reserved.

608-255-2155, mail@wabaptists.org
PO Box 259257, Madison, WI 53725

faith-based community organizing; plan and facilitate regional training events; recruit training leaders and participants; provide follow up support and counsel.

Organizational Consulting – assess strengths and needs of collaborating organizations in order to provide recommendations for strengthening the welcoming movement within each denomination; work with collaborating organizations to build organizational infrastructure and growth.

General Administrative – meet regularly with an Oversight Committee to plan long- and short-term goals; fulfill all grant requirements; organize and maintain project records and files; maintain fiscal accountability.

Qualifications

Experience in community organizing and training; sensitivity to LGBT community needs; Biblical and theological knowledge; openness and appreciation for ecumenical work; strong writing, computer and communicating skills; willingness to travel. Bachelor's degree required, graduate degree or compatible experience preferred

Other

Salary and benefits package of \$45,000 - \$50,000 depending upon experience.

For a full job description, go to www.WelcomingResources.org. To apply, submit cover letter and resume by February 10, 2007 to NFO@WelcomingResources.org. Questions may be directed to Barbara Satin at Barbara@WelcomingResources.org or call 612.821.4397.

Qualified candidates will be considered for application without regard to gender, gender identification, race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, height, weight, religion, ancestry, marital, economic or parenting status.

Faith-Based Organizer

California Faith for Equality (CFE) has an immediate opening for its first full-time staff member. CFE is seeking an energetic, articulate organizer who will build relationships and mobilize progressive clergy and people of faith to accomplish full equality for GLBTQ people. The focus of this position is to work with progressive interfaith organizations to achieve civil marriage equality for same-gender couples. The work involves extensive one-on-one contact with clergy, lay leaders and members of congregations. This position will direct, manage and evaluate all associated organizing activities, in partnership with CFE's Steering Committee.

Job Responsibilities:

- Develop working relationships with clergy and other leaders of faith-based organizations throughout Southern California
- Coordinate the implementation of key organizational objectives, including clergy- and lay-leader training, house party-based education strategies, target recruitment of clergy in diverse ethnic communities of faith, conduct public education campaigns and identify 40,000 supporters of marriage equality through grassroots strategies.
- Build partnerships with, and provide resources for, clergy and congregations seeking support to become welcoming and affirming congregations.
- In partnership with the Steering Committee, define and implement fundraising strategies to sustain and expand CFE's work statewide.
- Work with, and provide staff support to, CFE's Statewide Organizing Committee; assist in the building of a representative ethnically diverse statewide Board of Directors

Core Job Qualifications:

- Extensive experience working with progressive clergy and congregations
- At least 2 years of grassroots organizing experience, with an emphasis on mobilizing and supporting volunteers, preferably with experience in faith-based organizing.
- Faith leadership training and ability to speak the language of faith with authenticity desirable

- Demonstrated experience as a proactive, flexible, innovative, self-motivated organizer, problem solver and team leader who takes initiative to create results.
- Demonstrated ability to work with diverse interfaith communities to build coalitions across multiple constituencies; a commitment to multi-racial faith-based organizing.
- Advanced knowledge of, and commitment to, the achievement of full equality in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community.
- Excellent public speaking, training and writing skills.
- Ability to thrive in a fast-paced, team-focused organization.
- A well-developed sense of humor.
- Competent computer skills, including Microsoft Office Suite; administrative experience beyond minimum required

Salary DOE. Position will be based in Los Angeles and will remain open until filled. Please send a resume with cover letter and three references to RevNeil@mccla.org or send hard copies to:

California Faith for Equality, Hiring Committee
c/o Rev. Neil Thomas
8714 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA 90069

CFE is dedicated to the achievement of equality of opportunity for all its employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, real or perceived gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin or disability. For further information, go to <http://www.cafaithforequality.org>.

Central Baptist Church of Wayne, PA (near Philadelphia), one of our Partner Churches, is currently seeking a 15-hour/week coordinator of music for ministry. About themselves, they say: "We are a caring and risking congregation actively involved in issues such as environmental concerns, racial and economic justice, and equality for sexual minorities. At the same time, we seek to notice the movement of God's spirit among us, resting and drawing our strength from communion with God." We say: "This is an amazingly vibrant and committed congregation with a wonderful, talented staff that practices team ministry. This would be a fabulous opportunity for a musician with a heart for peace and justice." To learn more, contact Laurie Sweigard at 610-688-0664 or lsweigard@cbcwayne.org.

University Baptist Church of Austin, TX (www.ubcaustin.org, <http://www.ubcaustin.org>), a Welcoming and Affirming American Baptist congregation in an urban university environment, is searching for an Associate Pastor to focus on Spiritual Formation, ministry to Children and Families, and Outreach. Experience preferred. Salary \$38,000 to \$41,000 plus benefits. Inquiries may be addressed to LLBethune@AOL.COM. Resumes requested by January 31, 2007.

Glendale Baptist Church, Nashville, TN, a caring community of equality and grace is seeking a part-time Minister of Music. This is an exciting opportunity to join a meaningful music ministry program! Glendale is a progressive, Southern (geographically, only), creative congregation. To learn more about GBC, and details of the job description, please visit the website: <http://www.glendalebaptist.org/musicministersearch>.

Revive Us Again! Gathering Newton, MA, Feb. 16-17

Revival of our Spirit, Revival of our Baptist

Principles: February 16-17, 2007, Andover Newton Theological School, Newton, MA

Revive Us Again! is a gathering of progressive Baptists from around the country, ready to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are gathering to say that we are Christian, we are Baptist, and we believe our Baptist Principles are foundational to our understanding and sharing of the Gospel. We are gathering to say that we can be both progressive and evangelical!

Speakers include:

Rev. Cynthia Maybeck, Pastor, Trinity Church, Northborough, MA. Rev. Nancy Hitt, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Natick, MA. Rev. Dr. Liliana Da Valle, Executive Minister, ABC of Rhode Island. Rev. Alan Newton, Executive Minister, ABC of Rochester-Genesee. Rev. June Cooper, Minister of Outreach, First Baptist Church, Framingham, MA and Executive Director, City Mission Society, Boston, MA

Friday, February 16th, 7:00 p.m to 9:00 p.m.

Healing Service and Worship, led by the Rev. Cynthia Maybeck

Saturday, February 17th, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

(breakfast, lunch and dinner included)

Bible Study and Discussion Groups

Afternoon Workshops

Forum: Update on ABC-USA

Closing Revival Worship 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Newton, led by Rev. June Cooper

A registration fee (to cover the cost of meals on Saturday) of approximately \$20 is payable at the Revival.

For accommodations, please see the separate Travel and Accommodations notice.

Revive Us Again! is endorsed by the following churches and organizations:

- The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts
The Samuel Stillman Association (MA)
- American Baptist Churches of Rochester-Genesee
- Roger Williams Fellowship
- Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists
- Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America
- First Baptist Church, Framingham, MA
- First Baptist Church, Greenfield, MA

Please RSVP to Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell at 508-872-1176 or email fbcframingham@verizon.net by January 31st with your name, email and phone number.

Baptist Heritage Tour MAY 14-23, 2007

The Baptist Heritage Tour will explore the dynamic heritage of Baptist witness in the Bahamas amidst the historical experience of slavery and colonialism as well as the contemporary challenges of globalization. Participants will visit significant historical and cultural sites, churches, and museums. They will also have opportunities to dialogue with missionaries, national partners, and local historians.

Exact costs for the tour are still being determined, but we expect to have a final figure soon. If you're interested, you can contact Jonathan Hilsher or Angela Suderman at 1-800-ABC-3USA or e-mail Jonathan.Hilsher@abc-usa.org to have your name placed on the mailing list for prospective participants. You will be notified as soon as exact costs have been established. You can register for the tour by going to <http://www.discoveryteams.org> and clicking the 'registration' icon to download the appropriate forms. For questions about the tour itinerary, contact Rev. Daniel M. Schweissing, dan@haitianministries.net, American Baptist Missionary and Lecturer in Religious Studies, Atlantic College and Theological Seminary, Nassau, Bahamas, <http://www.haitianministries.net>.

New Ways Ministry's 6th Symposium Mar. 16-18 in Minneapolis

This Symposium will be held in Minneapolis, MN. James Alison is the keynote at the Pre-symposium. For information, go to <http://mysite.verizon.net/~vze43yrc/symposia.html>. Or contact NewWaysM@verizon.net, (301) 277-5674.

AWAB Seeks Nominations for Two Awards

Every two years, the AWAB Council is privileged to honor two individuals whose efforts to improve the path of GLBT people of faith have been inspirational

and transformative. We are currently seeking nominations for these two awards, to be presented at the AWAB gathering in Washington, DC, in June 2007.

Help Sponsor AWAB Hospitality Suite

Would you, your AWAB church, group of churches, or AWAB chapter be willing to help sponsor AWAB's ABC/USA Biennial Hospitality Suite? This is a place for welcoming & affirming people to gather for a time of fellowship and conversation after AWAB and ABC/USA events at the Biennial meeting in Washington, DC, June 29-July 2. Please contact Sandi John at sandijohn@verizon.net, or Heather Rittenhouse at angels4871@hotmail.com

Jim Singletary and First Baptist Church of Beverly, MA, Highlighted

Connections the Alliance of Baptists newsletter, has featured AWAB's own Jim Singletary on the front page! His congregation, First Baptist Church of Beverly, MA, is the cover story. Check it out at: <http://www.allianceofbaptists.org/aob-jan-07.pdf>.

Reflections From Our Friends at the Baptist Peace Fellowship

Save the date! March 16th, 2007 there will be an

amazing Christian peace witness in Washington, DC, including worship at the National Cathedral and a candlelight procession to the White House. Details are posted on our website! www.bpfna.org

Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the silent result of violent repression. Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all. Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty. –Oscar Romero, Martyred Archbishop of El Salvador.

Give to AWAB from your IRA in 2007

This past summer, the Pension Protection Act (PPA) became the law of the land. The PPA permits you to make charitable contributions from your IRA up to \$100,000 per year for tax years, 2006 and 2007. Consult an attorney, tax expert, or investment professional for more information.

Associational is a periodic e-newsletter of the Association of Welcoming & Affirming Baptists, a network of 65 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.

To learn more about the Association, go to: www.wabaptists.org.