

Registration for Connecting Families Weekend April 20-22, 2012 Please register before March 19, 2012.

Name(s) _____ Telephone _____
(as you would like to be listed on participant list and name tag) Cell _____
Address _____ Email _____

If you are sharing a room with someone not included on this registration, please give us their name so that we can honor your wishes. _____

Lodging Preference _____ Single _____ Double _____ Triple _____ Number and ages of children _____
Do you have a scholarship need? _____

Can you include a small donation for the Scholarship Fund? I am including \$ _____ for the scholarship fund and \$ _____ for registration. Total amount enclosed \$ _____.

Please enclose \$40 per person (non-refundable). *Please pay in U.S. funds.*
Make checks payable to: Connecting Families; Mail to Rose Moyer, Treasurer, 713 Scenic Drive, Harleysville, PA 19438.

RETREAT RATES

Per Person Single Occupancy \$275
Per Person Double Occupancy \$225
Per Person Triple Occupancy \$200
Per person 4—8 people in cabin \$179

Contact Elaine Mercer for child rates (under age 18 with parent).

PAYMENT PLANS

To register, send \$40 deposit per person (non-refundable) with the registration form.

The **balance** (rate less deposit) is due **March 19**. If you prefer, you may send full payment with registration.

Price includes: registration, lodging, Friday evening snack, three meals on Saturday, two meals on Sunday. Vegetarian and special diet provisions available. All rooms have two queen size beds and a private bath. Additional cot may be requested. Linens provided.

Make checks payable to **Connecting Families** (U.S. funds). Mail with registration form to: Rose Moyer, Treasurer, 713 Scenic Drive, Harleysville, PA 19438.

A more complete schedule and directions will be sent to you along with a confirmation of your registration.

LATE REGISTRATION (after March 19)

Please contact Elaine Mercer (717-935-2327 or mercibratt@embarqmail.com) for availability.

ALSO

You are encouraged to bring works of art, musical instruments, videos, books to share, hymnals and a Bible.

This weekend has been planned by and for Connecting Families participants in cooperation with Brethren/Mennonite Council.

Since we rely mainly on word-of-mouth to reach new people, please copy this form and use it to invite others.

Connecting Families Weekend

April 20-22, 2012

Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center
Reisterstown, Maryland



RANDALL SPAULDING

You will know them by their fruits—not their orientation

Connecting Families welcomes families, and supporters of and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Connecting Families weekend is intended to be a safe, relaxing time to share our common thoughts regarding sexual minority issues as they affect our families, our friends, our churches, and ourselves.

We are a group of people, each on our own journey. Through listening and sharing our stories, we seek to provide support for families whose children are coming out to them and/or to their church. We are committed to maintaining confidentiality within the group, to providing a place to speak in safety or to remain silent, and to sharing in a non-judgmental atmosphere. As a group, we work to find ways to educate and engage our churches in dialogue and to help them understand and accept our families.

Connecting Families Weekend Schedule

Friday, April 20

Registration will begin at 4:00 PM. A light supper/snack will be available at 6:00 PM. The evening activities will begin at 6:45 PM with singing, introductions, and a family story.

Saturday, April 21

Following breakfast, we will begin with a time of singing followed by another family story. After a short break, we will present our theme.

After lunch there will be free time for video presentations on topics helpful to GLBT people, their families, and supporters, or just visiting, walking or resting.

We will gather for more singing and discussion of our theme.

After dinner there will be various group reports, reflections, and free time to share interests and music.

Sunday, April 22

Sunday mornings at Connecting Families have proven to be very meaningful times of worship. It is a time to give thanks for our families and friends as well as a time of encouragement, renewal, and communion. Our weekend concludes with a noon meal together.

The Planning Committee

Forrest Moyer, Tom Chamness, Nick Dobratz, and Elaine Mercer (Chair). For questions about the weekend, contact Elaine at 717-935-2327 or email mercerbratt@embarqmail.com

RANDALL SPAULDING has been a Mennonite minister for 20 years. Most recently he served as pastor at Covenant Mennonite Fellowship in Sarasota, FL before leaving to pursue a M. Div. at Yale Divinity School. Originally from Indiana, he received a Bachelor of Music degree from Ball State University, a Master's in Choral Conducting from the University of South Florida, and has studied at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, IN. He has been active in the Mennonite Church, where he served as project editor for two songbook supplements to the Mennonite hymnal. While ministering in Florida, Spaulding was active in local peace and justice organizations and an inclusive interfaith council. As a result of coming out as a gay man and marrying his husband, Gary Stephens, his ministerial credentials were removed and he was expelled from the MCUSA/Canada bi-nation worship council. Randall and Gary live in Stratford, CT.

Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center

5425 Mt. Gilead Rd.

Reisterstown, MD 21136

410-429-4400 www.pearlstonecenter.org

We are so pleased to return to the very welcoming Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center, a Jewish institution which hosts groups from all religions, races and persuasions. It is about 30 minutes northwest of Baltimore, MD. In addition to comfortable housing and meeting facilities, there is an exercise room, lounge areas, hiking trails, organic farm, children's play and crafts areas. All of Pearlstone's public and common areas are accessible for individuals with physical disabilities. Wi-Fi in all guest rooms.

Please include any dietary needs, housing needs, or special needs for children: _____

Transportation from Baltimore/Washington International Airport can be arranged. Let us know your travel plans: _____

Are there any special issues you would like to discuss in a small group? Please describe it and we will try to accommodate your concern. _____

Is this your first Connecting Families experience? _____

Suggestions for future meetings (speakers, stories, themes): _____

Would you like to: _____tell your family story _____serve on the planning committee _____help with meeting logistics