

CONNECTING FAMILIES WEEKEND

Mar. 30-Apr. 1, 2012

Speaker: Carol Wise, BMC Director



BRETHREN MENNONITE COUNCIL
FOR LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL
AND TRANSGENDER INTERESTS

Theme: Coming Out as Love

Connecting Families welcomes families, and supporters of 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.

RETREAT RATES

\$125 per Adult (12 years old and up)
\$75 per child 11 and under
\$300 per family (2 adults & 2 children under 12)

Registration and Payment:

To register, send \$50 deposit per person (non-refundable) with the registration form.

The balance (rate less deposit) is due **February 14**. If you prefer, you may send full payment with registration.

Price includes: registration, lodging, Friday evening soup supper, three meals on Saturday, brunch on Sunday. Vegetarian and special diet provisions available. **Bunk cabins, limited private/family cabins available. Please bring sleeping bags/bedding, etc.**

Make checks payable to **Peace Church of the Brethren/Connecting Families** (U.S. funds). Mail with registration form to: Eileen Wilson 10319 SE Long St. Portland OR 97266

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

LATE REGISTRATION (after February 14)

Please contact Eileen Wilson 503-358-5466 or patricko@3dwave.com to check if space is available.

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

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.

Registration for Connecting Families Weekend March 30-April 1, 2012. Please register before February 14, 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 Bunk Cabin Family Cabin Shared Cabin 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 \$50 per person (non-refundable). Please pay in U.S. funds.

Make checks payable to: Peace COB/Connecting Families. Mail to: Eileen Wilson 10319 SE Long St. Portland OR 97266

OVER

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

Camp Myrtlewood is 230 miles south of Portland. Local airports are Portland International Airport, Eugene Airport, and North Bend Airport. We can assist with facilitating carpooling if we 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? _____

Would you like to: tell your family story serve on future planning committee help with meeting logistics

OVER

Coming Out as Love

When a loved one comes out as LGBT, the "issue" of sexual orientation or gender identity often takes on a whole new meaning that may impact relationships with other family members, friends, and especially the church.

Carol Wise, Executive Director of the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests (BMC) will help us explore the dynamics of coming out, paying particular attention to the opportunities for healing, reconciliation and a deeper spiritual awareness that coming out makes possible.



49658 Myrtle Creek Rd
Myrtle Point, OR 97458
(541) 572-5307

www.campmyrtlewood.org

Camp Myrtlewood operates exclusively for charitable and religious purposes to provide an outdoor setting where persons and groups may find spiritual renewal, education and recreation; to provide opportunities for persons to mature in Christian faith and character as an extension of the life of the church in human experience; and to be open to include persons and groups whose purposes are in harmony with those of Camp Myrtlewood without discrimination because of color, creed, ethnic origin or sexual orientation.

Connecting Families Weekend Schedule

Friday, March 30th

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, March 31st

Following breakfast, we will gather for a time of singing, a family story, and our speaker sharing on the theme "Coming Out as Love."

After lunch there will be free time for visiting, hiking, walking or resting. There will also be time for video presentations on various helpful topics.

Before dinner, we will gather for more singing and a time of small group discussion of the theme.

The evening will include various group reports, reflections, and free time to share interests and music.

Sunday, April 1st

Preacher: Carol Wise

Sunday morning worship at Connecting Families 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 brunch.

The Planning Committee

Joe & LaVonne Blowers, Juel Russell, Becky Yaeger, Patrick Fiegenbaum & Eileen Wilson

Questions? LaVonne Blowers
(lblowers@ix.netcom.com) or
Eileen Wilson (patricko@3dwave.com)