## Affirmation:

## United Methodists for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns

## **Constituent Survey**

For thirty years, Affirmation has been an advocate for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender concerns within The United Methodist Church. It has been the Church's *queer* voice.

In 1989, Affirmation developed a long-range plan to guide its movement into the future. That plan served us well for more than a decade. Now, however, as we face new challenges and opportunities within the world and the Church, we need to plan again. The time has come for Affirmation to take a fresh look at its history, challenges, capabilities and environment to create a vision that will empower and guide its future work.

We need your help. We need to know who you are. We want to discover what you need, what you hope, and what you dream. Affirmation is not a voice in the wilderness... It is the voice of a community. So, before we plan, we want to know the people who are part of that community. We want to know you.

Please take a few minutes to help us create a clear vision so that we can speak with a strong voice for the Transgender, Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay community in The United Methodist Church.

Please return surveys by August 31, 2003, by mail or e-mail to:

Affirmation/United Methodists for LGBT Concerns 900 Hilgard Avenue Room 316 Los Angeles, CA 90024-3009

res03ytz@gte.net

<u>Demographic Information:</u>						
1.	Gender identity:	female	male	blended		
		trans	other			
2.	Ethnicity:		3. Age:			
4.	Where do you live?:					
	•	Town/City	State			
		urban	suburban	rural		
5.	In what contexts are you 'out of the closet'?					
	Family	Work	Community	Church		
	Other – Please describe:					
Church Relations						
6.	What is your role in	the Church?	Lay Person	Clergy Person		

7.	If you are clergy or in the ordination process, what is your status?					
	Elder in Full Connection Deacon in Full Connection					
	Probationary Elder Probationary Deacon					
	Candidate for Ministry – At what stage in the process?					
	Local Pastor					
8.	If you are employed professionally by the church, what is your official function?					
	Serving a Local Church Retired Location/Leave					
	Extension Ministry – Please describe:					
	District Superintendent Bishop Missionary					
	Lay employee – Please describe:					
9.	How active are you in The United Methodist Church? Please describe your involvement:					
10.	Where in The United Methodist Church do you find support and acceptance as a TLGB person?					
11.	Where in The United Methodist Church do you experience rejection, suspicion or marginalization?					
12.	How and in what contexts do you experience strong TLGB voices in the life of the Church?					
13.	In what contexts or circumstances in the life of the Church would you like to see a strong TLGB					
	voice to emerge?					
14.	LET YOUR MIND FLY! Where would you like Affirmation's voice for TLGB people to be heard more clearly(e.g, in my congregation, at my backyard barbecue, with the Transcommunity in my area, at General Conference etc. Be creative!)?					

## **Areas of Interest and Concern**

	Reconciling/welcoming communities in other Christian denominations			
	TLGB supporting communities in other religious traditions (e.g., Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist, etc.)			
C	The secular queer (TLBG) community			
D	Queer youth			
E	Queer communities of color			
F	Racism/Sexism in the Queer Community			
G	Communities of color within The United Methodist Church			
Н	United Methodist communities outside the United States			
[	General Conference			
J	Jurisdictional/Central Conferences			
K	Reconciling Ministries Network			
L	Queer clergy			
М	Closeted queer clergy			
N	Queer laity			
Э	The Trans Community			
P	Queer friendly legislation			
	Secular Within The United Methodist Church			
	Confronting/standing up to the Religious Right (Institute on Religion and Democracy, ood News, Transforming Congregations, etc.)			
R	Developing worship resources			
S	Developing educational resources			
Г	Creating/developing coalitions with justice seekers			
	Secular United Methodist Ecumenical/Religious			
	Other – Please describe.			

17.	How has your voice been heard or not heard within Affirmation?
18.	How have you experienced exclusion/marginalization within Queer United Methodist contexts like Affirmation?
<u>Oth</u>	er Information
19.	What are the questions/issues you did not understand in this survey?
20.	What have we missed?
Drea	am It!
21.	Complete this sentence. I would love to see Affirmation
Thai	nk you for taking the time to complete this survey.