

A large, stylized graphic of flames in shades of gray, serving as a background for the text.

The African American Roundtable
of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies
in Religion and Ministry presents

SOULS a' FIRE 3

**Third Biennial Conference
held in Conjunction with
Philadelphia Black Gay Pride
April 26—28, 2007**

SOULS a' FIRE 3

Schedule of Events

Thursday, April 26, 2007

8:00 – 10:00 PM *Opening Reception.*

Join us for a free, public reception jointly hosted by the African American Roundtable of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, and the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition.

To be held at Freedom Theater, at 1346 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA.

Friday, April 27, 2007

10:00 – 12:00 PM

Panel Discussion: *Their Own Received Them Not: Black Gays and Lesbians in Black Churches.*

Panelists:

Rev. Cedric Harmon, *City of Refuge, DC & Americans United for the Separation of Church and State.*

Rev. Debra Mumford, PhD Candidate, *Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA.*

Rev. Jeffrey Haskins, Pastor, *Unity Fellowship Church Philadelphia, PA.*

Rev. Donna Allen, PhD., *Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA.*

Respondent:

Horace Griffin, PhD. Author & Professor, *The General Seminary of the Episcopal Church in New York, NY.*

Comprised of clergy, scholars, and the author himself, this opening panel will discuss the arguments and implications of the new groundbreaking text *Their Own Received Them Not: Black Gays and Lesbians in Black Churches.*

2:00 – 4:00 PM (Concurrent Workshops)

Radical Acceptance: Spiritual Formation for African American LGBT Persons of Faith.

Workshop Leader:

Rev. Lynice Pinkard, *Associate Pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Oakland, CA.*

This workshop offers an alternative to “church membership” models of spirituality for A/A LGBT persons. The homophobia suffered by A/A LGBT persons often leaves them alienated from their communities and from themselves. Such alienation can lead one to think there is something inherently wrong with one’s self. This workshop will teach a model of spiritual formation that leads one to full and radical acceptance.

Theological Education and its History in Grassroots Movements.

Workshop Leader:

Victor Anderson, PhD. *Professor of Religious Studies at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.*

Seminary education is not merely about credentialing, but the journey through seminary education can empower one with important critical tools for effective leadership and successful grassroots organizing. Victor Anderson has a wealth of experience and wisdom for future leaders who want to get the most out of theological education.

**Unless otherwise noted, events will be held at Arch Street United Methodist Church,
55 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107**

Register online at www.clgs.org.

SOULS a' FIRE 3

Saturday, April 28

10:00 – 12:00 PM (Concurrent Workshops)

Ham and Eggs: The Interse(x)(ct)ionality of Race, Class, Gender and Sexualities in the Bible.

Workshop Leader:

Randall Bailey, PhD. *Professor of Hebrew Bible, Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta, GA.*

This workshop deals with using critical theory constructs as ways of reading the Bible. For example, it will deal with 1) Ham in Gen. 9 and the use of sex to negatively label a group of people; 2) Potiphar's wife, only the second Egyptian woman in the text, portrayed as oversexed; 3) the Potiphar and Joseph story, with its implications of master-slave sexual abuse; and 4) Ezekiel's railings about "the Egyptians, with their members like donkeys and their issues like stallions" and the long fixation on the hung black dick, etc.

Sexual Ethics for Black LGBT Communities of Faith.

Workshop Leader:

Rev. DaVita McCallister, *Minister (National) for Youth and Young Adults for the United Church of Christ, Cleveland, OH.*

This workshop will focus on sexual ethics for leadership in Black LGBT communities of faith. Considering the history of sexual abuse against LGBT persons in religious contexts, this workshop will remind leaders of the potential replication of such abuse, and how we might create a particular kind of 'sexual ethic' in the midst of our recovery.

2:00 – 4:00 PM

Panel Discussion: *Emerging Voices: Young Voices in Black LGBT Religious and Spiritual Leadership.*

Panelists:

Ashon Crawley, *Emory University, Atlanta, GA.*

Nikki Young, *Emory University, Atlanta, GA.*

Rev. Clay Allen, Pastor, *The Vision Church, Atlanta, GA.*

Comprised of young adult scholars and clergy, these panelists will discuss their work and its relationship to young black LGBT people of faith. In keeping with the conference's overall theme of leadership development, this panel offers a space for 'emerging voices' of black LGBT spiritual and religious leadership.

This workshop will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1800 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA, and will be followed by a closing ritual, led by Rev. Ann Jefferson of Pacific School of Religion.

Sunday, April 29

9:30 – 1:00 PM

Philly Black Pride Interfaith Brunch.

Join us for an interfaith service and brunch. This event is free and open to the public.

This brunch will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1800 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA.

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