



Maine Conference, United Church of Christ
Pilgrim Lodge
Dean's Letter



March 24, 2014

Dear LGBT Sisters & Brothers in Faith:

Welcome to Rainbow Camp – a retreat for lesbian, gay, bisexual & transgender Christians to gather as a community of faith and be nourished in God's healing waters at Pilgrim Lodge, a Maine Conference, United Church of Christ summer camp. I am excited and eager to greet you for this sacred time together.

Our camp theme this year is "Get Real – Finding Your True Self," which will give us the opportunity to reflect on what it means to live a meaningful life with God as LGBT persons of faith. If this is your first time at Pilgrim Lodge – welcome! For those of you who have attended previous camps at PL, then you know the sacredness of this place.

Attached is a proposed schedule of our weekend together. The retreat begins 7:00 p.m. Friday, August 22nd (please arrive having already eaten dinner) and ends following lunch Sunday, August 24th. Please note that we will be sharing the Pilgrim Lodge facility with another group – Lighten Up, Loosen Up. While the majority of our activities will be separate from the other camp, there will be occasions when we will intermingle. For example, we will eat meals at the same time and worship jointly, each group serving in a leadership role.

In advance of our weekend, please review the Pilgrim Lodge Camper Guide, which can be found at: <http://www.pilgrimlodge.org/document/PLParentCamperGuideADULTS.pdf>. Pay close attention to items that you need to bring with you: bedding or a sleeping bag, towels, clothing that can be layered, swimwear, a flashlight (needed for the Saturday evening labyrinth walk), rain gear, bug repellent, and sunscreen (refer to page 5 for a complete list). You might consider bringing a comfortable lawn chair to use for some of our gatherings. Don't forget your Bible as we will have numerous roundtable discussions.

If you have any special dietary needs, please list this information on your health form (you do not need a doctor's signature, but you do need to complete the form). If you do not get the chance to mail this in advance of the camp, you can complete the form when you arrive. You may bring your own special food items, which may be left in the kitchen refrigerator. Please let me know if you have any serious food allergies, or have Celiac disease, so I can alert the kitchen staff.

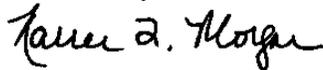
Items not to bring to the retreat include drugs, alcohol, or pets. Please consider leaving your cell phone, laptop, and personal listening devices at home. Please note: Pilgrim Lodge is a tobacco-free facility!

The retreat will be structured on Brian McLaren's book, Naked Spirituality: A Life with God in 12 Simple Words, which presents a four-stage framework for understanding the spiritual life and highlights spiritual practices appropriate to each stage. Participants will be asked to bare themselves spiritually – stripping away the symbols and status of the Sunday-dress version people often call "organized religion" – and reflect on how to stay true to Jesus's core message while engaging faithfully with our postmodern world. It is not necessary for you to have read the book in advance of the retreat weekend. (Continued >>>)

On Saturday evening, we will watch God & Gays: Bridging the Gap, a film that takes an intimate look at the struggle of reconciling sexuality and spirituality by looking at the lives of LGBT persons of faith. The film wrestles with the issues of being gay in a right-wing Christian world through the eyes and experiences of people wanting a relationship with the very religion that rejects them. In every age there are groups of people misunderstood and mistreated simply because of who they are. God & Gays puts the face and heartbeat of humanity into this emotionally charged issue and answers the question of whether it is possible to be gay and Christian. There will be time for discussion following the movie.

Finally, please be sure to pay any balance owed for the camp prior to your arrival. I look forward to meeting everyone Friday, August 22nd at 7:00 p.m. and spending an exciting weekend of renewal with my LGBT sisters and brothers in faith. Please let me know if you need to arrive at a later time. I trust you will leave from our weekend together with a spirit-filled and life-giving understanding of what it means to be an LGBT person of faith in these times. If you have any questions about the retreat, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Faithfully,



Rev. Darren L. Morgan
Rainbow Camp Dean

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D R A F T

Rainbow Camp 2014 Schedule
Theme: “Get Real – Finding Your True Self”

Dean: Rev. Darren Morgan

Friday, August 22, 2014:

7:00 pm – Arrival, cabin assignment, get settled
7:45 pm – Introductions & Sharing our Spiritual Journeys
9:15 pm – Vespers

Saturday, August 23, 2014:

7:30 am – Morning Watch
8:00-8:45 am – Breakfast
9:00-10:15 am – Session 1: Simplicity – the Season of Spiritual Awakening
10:30-11:45 am – Session 2: Complexity – the Season of Spiritual Strengthening
Noon-12:45 pm – Lunch
1:00-2:15 pm – Session 3: Perplexity – the Season of Spiritual Surviving
2:30-3:45 pm – Session 4: Harmony – the Season of Spiritual Deepening
4:00-5:30 pm – Free Time (swim, hike, walk, nap, read)
5:30-6:15 pm – Dinner
6:30-9:00 pm – Movie: God & Gays: Bridging the Gap, followed by group discussion
9:15 pm – Vespers (Labyrinth)

Sunday, August 24, 2014:

8:00-8:45 am – Breakfast
9:00-10:15 am – Closing Session: Twelve Simple Prayers
10:30-11:45 am – Sunday Worship with Communion
Noon-12:45 pm – Lunch
1:00 pm – Final Reflections & Goodbyes

D R A F T

IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR CAMP!

A Quick Review for **Adult** Sessions

<p>WHAT TO BRING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Casual relaxing clothes ▪ Warm clothes for cold days and nights ▪ Warm sleeping clothes ▪ Rain gear ▪ Shorts ▪ Jeans/pants ▪ Sweatshirts ▪ Bible ▪ Notebook or stationery and pen ▪ Bathing suit ▪ Beach towel ▪ Shower shoes/beach shoes ▪ Musical instruments ▪ 1 nice outfit (not <i>too</i> formal) ▪ Bathroom items in an easy to carry bag or ▪ Bucket (towels, washcloth, soap, ▪ Toothbrush, floss, comb/brush etc.) ▪ Sleeping bag or bedding ▪ Pillow ▪ Comfortable sneakers/hikers ▪ Flashlight ▪ Laundry bag ▪ Insect repellent (non-aerosol please! ▪ Sunscreen (SPF 30 or more) ▪ Water bottle with camper's name written on it ▪ Items listed in your Deans' letter ▪ Money for store/mission (look to the right) 	<p>Personal items policy: Campers are free to bring personal items such as musical instruments, (larger instruments usually are left in the lodge), compact discs, and sporting equipment provided their name is written on the item. The Maine Conference, United Church of Christ is not responsible for lost, stolen or broken items.</p>
	<p>There's no wi-fi; let it go for the weekend.</p> <p>Please be discreet about cell phones and medications.</p> <p>Think about how you will make this experience prayerful.</p>
	<p>Email and On-line Photos require a \$10 per camper account set up on line. A credit card is needed. Email cost one credit, credits are available when you set up your account. See the inside of the front cover for details.</p>
	<p>Mail: (Please do not send food or candy) Camper's Name, camper's cabin # Pilgrim Lodge 103 Pilgrim Lodge Lane West Gardiner, ME 04345</p>

Please do not Bring: Alcohol or illegal drugs; weapons; pets; valuables; jewelry; computers; fireworks, SCUBA equipment, skate boards or in-line skates.

Directions to Pilgrim Lodge: phone: 207-724-3200

Traveling North on I-295: Take **exit 51**, turn **Left** on Route **126**. Follow Route 126 about 2.5 miles. /
at the blinking light turn **RIGHT** onto Spears Corner Road /
continue straight for 4.3 miles (through 2 stop signs) to a third stop sign: **Careful: cross traffic does NOT stop at any of the three stop signs** /
at that third stop sign turn **LEFT** onto Neck Road/
Pilgrim Lodge will be one mile ahead on your **RIGHT**

Traveling North on I-95 (new shorter route):
Take **exit 86** and turn **LEFT** onto Route 9 /
drive a mile and half and turn **RIGHT** on route 126 /
in 10.8 miles at the blinking light with “Litchfield Country Store” on your right,
Turn **LEFT at Batchelder’s Corner** (the post office should now be on your right) /
in 2 miles bear **LEFT** on Neck Road /
Pilgrim Lodge is 2 miles ahead on the **LEFT**

Traveling South on I-95 From **I-95**, take exit **109 B** onto **Route 202** west. Follow below:

Traveling West: Travel through Augusta on **Route 202**, cross over **I-95**
South and west continued:
After 2.5 miles, (by the Manchester Citgo), at the stoplight where route 17 turns right (don’t turn right) and 202 goes straight (don’t go straight) turn **LEFT onto Pond Road**
proceed South for about 6.5 miles /
Pilgrim Lodge will be on your **RIGHT**

Traveling East: Take 126 from Lewiston to Litchfield. At the blinking light with “Litchfield Country Store” on your right, Turn **LEFT at Batchelder’s Corner** (The post office should now be on your right) /
drive 2 miles/
Turn **LEFT onto Neck road**/
Pilgrim Lodge will be in 2 miles ahead on your **LEFT**