



Press Release

Date – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Smith
president@pflagcinci.org
Phone: 513-721-7900

Freedom Center Forum on Religion and Gay/Lesbian Discrimination

Cincinnati OH – The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and PFLAG Cincinnati present an eBay Community Foundation “Faith to Freedom” Forum on Tuesday, March 4, 2008 at 7:00 pm. The Forum will discuss faith and discrimination against lesbians and gays.

Of all the faith and freedom issues facing Americans today, perhaps none is more emotional and contentious than the question of how people of faith can reconcile their stance regarding discrimination against lesbians and gays with their religious beliefs. On the panel to discuss this issue will be several influential religious and political leaders:

- Pastor Brad Schmeling, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Atlanta
- Reverend Damon Lynch, Jr., Pastor, New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Cincinnati
- Reverend Damon Lynch, III, Pastor, New Prospect Baptist Church, Cincinnati
- Mother Paula Jackson, Rector, Church of Our Saviour, Cincinnati
- Cecil Thomas, City Councilman, Cincinnati

Pastor Brad Schmeling, who grew up in Cincinnati, was defrocked in July 2007 for being a gay pastor in a committed relationship. His appeal to the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) was denied per church rules. His story will serve as a springboard for discussion. Join these leaders as together we explore the ways people of faith fight discrimination even when it is seemingly opposed to their faith tradition.

Sponsors of this event are Caracole, Equality Cincinnati, Equality Ohio, GLBT Alliance of St. John UCC, Bellevue KY, GLSEN, Integrity Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky Fairness Alliance, The Social Justice Committee of First Unitarian Church, stop|AIDS, and Xavier Alliance.

March 4, 7:00 p.m.

Harriet Tubman Theater (enter from west side of the Freedom Center)
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
50 East Freedom Way, Cincinnati OH 45202

Listen Live at: www.freedomcenter.org/freedomradio

Free and open to the public. For more information please call 513-333-7518

Learn more about the struggle for freedom by gays and lesbians! Visit the *Everyday Freedom Heroes Exhibit* at the Freedom Center and learn about Harvey Milk, who was killed in California in 1978 for fighting against gay/lesbian discrimination.

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Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is the nation’s foremost family-based organization committed to the civil rights of gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender persons. Founded in 1973 by mothers and fathers, PFLAG has 200,000 members and supporters in more than 500 chapters throughout the United States. To learn more, please visit www.pflag.org.