PRESBYTERIAN PARENTS OF GAYS AND LESBIANS RECORDS, 1994-2007

Descriptive Summary

Title: Presbyterian Parents of Gays and Lesbians records
Accession Number(s): 2011-010
Extent: 3 inches of manuscript material, 2 zip disks, 1 artifact
Language: Materials are written in English.

Administrative History:

Presbyterian Parents of Gays and Lesbians (PPG&L) was founded in Dallas in 1994 with the purpose of providing support and community for the parents of gay sons and daughters through the formation of support groups and developing ties between parents of gay and lesbian-identified children. Through the PPG&L’s support, parents were encouraged to ‘come out’ and no longer hide the feelings they were experiencing since learning of their child’s orientation. Jane Loflin, the organization’s founder and president, learned that her son was gay in 1966. Having experienced first-hand the isolation and distress that parents sometimes undergo upon learning that their son or daughter is gay, Loflin saw a need for greater awareness and advocacy in the Presbyterian Church. Beginning in 1993, Loflin began working with pastors and members of the Presbyterian community to establish a model of pastoral care and ministry for parents of gays and lesbians. The first meeting of the Presbyterian Parents of Gays and Lesbians took place in May 1994, with the organization becoming fully incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization on June 29, 1994. A series of bylaws, regarding the governance of the PPG&L through a Board of Directors, were adopted by the organization in October 1994.

The mission of PPG&L was to provide community for parents, help them move towards acceptance of their sons and daughters and to overcome the fear and prejudice surrounding homosexuality in society as well as within the church. PPG&L established support groups as a place where parents could meet and share their experiences in an affirmative and faith-based atmosphere. As awareness of PPG&L expanded outside of Dallas and Texas, the organization began to open sister chapters throughout the United States. By 2000, there were eight chapters of Presbyterian Parents of Gays and Lesbians active within the United States: Dallas, Texas; Glendale, California; Raleigh, North Carolina; Bellevue, Washington; Albany, New York; Johnson City, Tennessee; Norwalk, Connecticut; and Bend, Oregon.

For information on this collection, contact the Austin Seminary Archives at 512-404-4875, archives@austinseminary.edu, or visit us at www.austinseminary.edu/archives
In 1998, Jane Loflin retired as Director of the PPG&L, and was succeeded by Margaret Gurecky, who was director of the organization until its dissolution in 2007. As of 2006, the only active chapter of Presbyterian Parents of Gays and Lesbians was the Dallas chapter. In February 2007, due to the changing times and greater availability of support for parents of gay and lesbian-identified children, Presbyterian Parents of Gays and Lesbians ceased operations and dissolved its corporate entity.

Scope and Contents:
The collection includes materials produced or acquired by the administrators of the Presbyterian Parents of Gays and Lesbians from 1994 to 2007, with articles and printouts from earlier dates. The majority of the material dates from 1994 to 1998, during the time when PPG&L was most active in the community. The records document the formation of Presbyterian Parents of Gays and Lesbians, outside publicity of the organization, and the activities of the organization’s three self-identified functions: Outreach, Chapter Development, and Education. There are also internally used and circulated documents, such as drafts of publications, original copies for printing and distribution, and job descriptions for some of the organization’s board positions which compose the Administrative Materials series. Notable examples are minutes from a corporate retreat detailing future plans for the PPG&L (1998), the Articles of Incorporation for the organization (1994), and contracts used for the creation of sister chapters (1994).

The publicity materials obtained by the PPG&L are primarily news articles from secular newspapers highlighting the organization’s activities or short biographies of Jane Loflin highlighting the organization’s formation. Items in the Outreach and Chapter Development series are mostly textual and graphic materials that would have been distributed to the community, such as press releases, handbills, pamphlets, and informational publications. The Education series contains articles collected and maintained as part of the PPG&L’s resource library. The collection also contains two zip disks and a compact disc, each of which were labeled as containing publicity materials, press releases, logos, and images for a display board. In addition to the print materials there is one PPG&L button that is housed separately from the collection.

Processing Information:
Processed by Samantha Bruner and Kathryn Darnall, Archives Assistants, 4 December 2012.

Related Collections:
Archived versions of the PPG&L’s now-inactive website can be found by accessing the Internet Archive online at:
Restrictions:
Materials are available by appointment only. Digital materials and a file listing of
digital materials are available upon request. Contact the archivist for details.

Index Terms:
Loflin, Jane.
Gurecky, Margaret.
Presbyterian Parents of Gays and Lesbians.
Gay community--Texas--Dallas--History.
Gay and lesbian experience.
Gay and lesbian perspectives.
Parents of gays--Pastoral counseling of.
Parents of sexual minority youth.
Presbyterian gays.
Articles.
Articles of incorporation.
Leaflets.
Sermons.

Preferred Citation: Presbyterian Parents of Gays and Lesbians records, 1994-2007,
Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

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ART-1 Artifact: PPG&L button, “Caring for each other,” undated

E055 Series 3: Education, 1977-2006 and undated
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Sermons, 1995 and undated

Series 4: Chapter development, 1996-2000 and undated
Guidelines for group formation and meeting format, undated
License covenant, undated
Someone wishing to start a group, undated
PPG&L support group locations, 1996-2001