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## **RRNGLE** Awarded Outreach Grant

The Raleigh Religious Network for Gay and Lesbian Equality has received a grant of \$2,500 from the Southeastern Conference for Lesbians & Gay Men '90/Raleigh Steering Committee to extend its outreach in the community.

The funds were generated by the South-eastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men held in Raleigh last March and were made available to groups in the Raleigh area whose work benefits the gay and lesbian community.

The grant will provide initial salary support for a part-time Outreach Coordinator, whose primary tasks are making direct contact with area clergy, organizing a speakers' bureau, and producing a comprehensive gay/lesbian resource guide for the Raleigh area.

RRNGLE is an ecumenical network of clergy and lay persons active since 1987 in challenging homophobia, providing educational events, and encouraging the acceptance of lesbians and gay men by faith communities and society at large.

Its members include parish clergy, campus ministers, professors and lay members of local Episcopal, United Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Jewish, Unitarian, Lutheran, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ and Metropolitan Community Church congregations.

RRNGLE sponsors a conference in Raleigh each March on issues concerning faith communities and gay men and lesbians. Past speakers include Dr. Carter Heyward of Episcopal Divinity School and Dr. George Edwards of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

RRNGLE has also been an active supporter of and participant in Gay Pride marches for the last three years. RRNGLE clergy spoke at the 1990 Pride rally and at the ecumenical worship service. Several network members have addressed church, university and government groups on gay is

When the NAMES Project AIDS quilt was displayed in Raleigh, RRNGLE provided speakers for the opening and closing ceremonies as well as grief support counselors throughout. Network members regularly respond to current issues in the religious, political and legislative arenas with articles and letters to editors in support of gay rights.

RRNGLE has chosen the Reverend Jimmy Creech to fill the newly-funded position of Outreach Coordinator. Creech, a United Methodist minister for more than 20 years, is a founding member and former convener of RRNGLE, a board member of the AIDS Service Agency of Wake County, Inc., and co-chair of last year's HEARTSTRINGS performance in Durham.

He lost his pastorate at Fairmont United Methodist Church in Raleigh last June as a result of controversy over his support of gay rights.

Because the beliefs of clergy impact so powerfully the attitudes of their congregations, Creech will be inviting area clergy to get acquainted with the network, attend educational events and avail themselves of speakers to address groups in their churches and synagogues. RRNGLE also plans to help interested people in other parts of the state form similar networks.

The resource guide will make available information on gay and lesbian organizations, church groups, arts opportunities, social gatherings, businesses, books and periodicals, health resources, support groups, hotlines, counselors, affirming clergy and events.

Publication is planned by June 1991. Submissions of information for possible inclusion in the guide are welcome. The booklet will be available by mail and at frequented gathering places in the gay and lesbian community.

RRNGLE is also seeking contributions from foundations, churches and individuals to help meet printing costs and other expenses not covered by the SECLGM grant. Those who have questions, information or contributions should address them to RRNGLE, P.O. Box 5961, Raleigh, NC 27650-5961.

## Nelson To Lead RRNGLE Conference

Dr. James B. Nelson, Professor of Christian Ethics at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, will lead a conference on "Making Connections: Spirituality and Sexuality" in Raleigh on March 8 and 9, 1991. This is the fourth annual conference sponsored by the Raleigh Religious Network for Gay and Lesbian Equality.

Dr. Nelson is widely known as an author and lecturer. His books include Embodiment: An Approach to Sexuality and Christian Theology; Human Medicine, Between Two Gardens and The Intimate Connection: Male Sexuality/Masculine Spirituality.

Dr. Nelson will make four different presentations, two on Friday and two on Saturday. The conference will also offer opportunities for worship, resource sharing, questions and answers, small group discussions on various topics, a book table and personal stories in a fishbowl format.

Usually Friday's session is geared toward clergy and Saturday's toward the general public, but anyone may register for either single day or for both days.

The conference will take place at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, one block east of the N.C. State belitower on Hillsborough Street in Raleigh.

For further information, please write to RRNGLE, P.O. Box 5961, Raleigh, NC 27650-5961.

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