

*"When you judge someone you have no time to love them"*

*- Mother Teresa*

*"Judgment gets in the way of listening and truth and relationships."*

*- Dr. Nancy McKay*

## What is required?

- Diane Hartig & Greg Gough

To be involved in other communities requires commitment and curiosity - commitment to remain within a context, despite reasons to leave and a curiosity to understand the fabric of that context and ask questions.

God created a world, created a context, and has chosen to remain within that context from the beginning. From God's perspective, there may have been many reasons to abandon and start over because things weren't going as planned. God's choice, if you will, was intentionally different.

Is Christianity markedly different because we are supposed to love, or because of why we are supposed to love? In other words, how we understand love and what motivates us to love is essential.

If we are to look at others as people

made in the image of God, people who God loves deeply, if we get to love because God loves and we are created in his image, then we as created beings, get to be curious about and committed to others. For us, curiosity comes out of love, and love gives birth to commitment.

***God's choice was intentionally different.***

How are you curious about the Christian community? How are you curious about the LGBT community? How curious are you about people you're already connected to? How curious are you about people with whom you have no connection?

What do you get to do that's intentionally different?

## Karaoke Competition and Finals!!!

We announced our Karaoke Competition in last quarter's newsletter and want to provide an update to how things ended.

On April 6, 2010 we began a Karaoke Competition in Grand Rapids, MI as a means to bring people from different communities together. After two qualifying rounds and 8 elimination rounds, we had 5 amazing finalists that competed at West Michigan Pride on June 19, 2010.

We had over 200 people that watched the event and it was one of the largest

crowd drawing events of the day. We had over \$1400 in prizes that had been donated for the purposes of this competition as well as nearly \$1000 raised for Bridge Evidence Group through the competition.

Most importantly, we brought people together that wouldn't normally come together at Pride. People stepping outside of comfort zones and really moving into uncertain and new space. We put together a collective prize where all contestants came together nearly 3 weeks after the competition for a night out together to celebrate.



## Walk The Divide

After the initial planning for this event, we determined adding facets to the event that would make it even more beneficial. We've decided to hold the walk in 2011.

The walk is intended to be:

- a bridge walk in Grand Rapids, MI (or your home town) as a means of bringing people together and raising funds;
- an opportunity for people to connect as they walk and talk with each other, stopping at significant places throughout the walk and discussing both the things that divide and the things that bring together.
- a culmination in a shared picnic meal at a local park.

We are really excited about this opportunity and would like to see lots of people join us! Please look for more information on this and get in touch with us if you'd like to know more. If you do not live near Grand Rapids, MI, that doesn't mean you can't participate. We would like to work with you to help you attend the walk here or to facilitate a walk in your community.

---

*"It's not my business to decide how good you are for me, how valuable you are, in what the world can see, only that you try to understand me and have the courage to love me for me."*

-M. Ciccone  
-S. Pettibone

## T-Shirt ... Evidence

We would like to encourage donations toward the work that we do by providing a gift of a Bridge Evidence Group (BE Group) t-shirt for a minimum \$50 donation. We intend for the t-shirt to represent your commitment in relationship with others as being evidence of the bridge between the Christian and LGBT communities. Please get in touch with us regarding this opportunity! We have a limited supply of t-shirts.



## Second Quarter 2010 Financial Statement

Previous balance	\$1110.02
Total gifts:	\$2597.00
Total expenses:	\$2716.74
<hr/>	
Fund Balance:	\$990.28

Bridge Evidence Group is a 501(c)(3) organization that is committed to financial transparency and accountability.