



*A sacred place to be, and to become people of hope, compassion, justice, and service.*



## **Celebrating Our Lives, Faith & Love: LGBT 40th anniversary at Kirkridge**

**Hosted by: Michael J. Adee and Jean Richardson. Keynote speaker: Rev. Erin Swenson**

**September 8, 2017 to September 10, 2017**

Forty years ago, Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center offered a clarion call of welcome to LGBTQ persons in faith communities. This was historic, unique and rare at that time. A special retreat celebrating the LGBTQ-affirming faith movement and to mark this historic anniversary is being held on September 8 - 10, 2017.

Many of the “firsts” that have occurred in faith, national and military LGBTQ communities trace their threads of origin back to the mountain. This is where leaders found their courage, strength and voice. This is where their convictions were strengthened by the spiritual, emotional and political awareness that blossomed during their time at Kirkridge. Virginia Mollenkott, John McNeill, Mary Hunt, Chris Glaser and Bishop Gene Robinson are among the faith leaders who are part of Kirkridge's LGBTQ history.

This gathering offers a wide and joyful welcome to all who wish to celebrate this amazing 40-year LGBTQ history. LGBTQ people, families and friends are welcome. Longstanding programs who have met at Kirkridge will be present including: Sisterly Conversations; The Gay Men's Event; Agape; and the historic Gay and Lesbian Christian program.

Along with creating space for spiritual reflection and having plenty of time for recreation, we will ask ourselves and each other: what's next? What's next for LGBTQ faith and justice work at and beyond Kirkridge, in our country and around the world? In this particularly era, we will reflect upon how our faith and spirituality sustain us and how does community give us hope.

Sisterly Conversations will begin their gathering September 7, 2017 (additional \$90) You need to register separately for Sisterly Conversations.

**Jean Richardson** and **Michael J. Adee** are serving as hosts for this retreat. **Rev. Erin Swenson** is the keynote speaker. Erin is a Presbyterian minister who has served as a pastor, chaplain, counselor and educator. She served as Adjunct Professor of Pastoral Care at Chandler School of Theology. Erin is the first-known Protestant minister to make a gender transition and retain her ordination. She served as the Co-Moderator of the Board of More Light Presbyterians, a national

LGBTQ-affirming network in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Erin's home is Atlanta, Georgia.

Cost \$375 includes double occupancy room, board and tuition