

## **MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - A Welcoming Community**

250 Bryant Avenue

White Plains, NY 10605

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**-- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE --**

### ***The Loft LGBT Center Moves to Campus of Memorial UMC, a Welcoming Church on Bryant Avenue***

WHITE PLAINS, NY (Jan. 7, 2008) – Memorial United Methodist Church welcomes a new neighbor to its Pastor Joe Agne announced today.

The LOFT is a not-for-profit, community-based organization serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered community of the lower Hudson Valley. It works to further the cause for inclusion, diversity and pride through education, advocacy and celebration.

"We welcome to our campus our new neighbor, The Loft," says Agne, Memorial's pastor. "We hope our location will enhance their already strong advocacy work throughout the Lower Hudson area. They serve, so well, the LGBT community and their presence strengthens us as we seek to do the same."

The Loft says the move in late December to Memorial's campus from its previous downtown White Plains site enables it to make a number of improvements, including better Library Services, free parking and a new CyberCenter sponsored by the David Bohnett Foundation.

Agne says the Loft's decision to move onto Memorial's campus is "the ultimate compliment."

"We support their work and look forward to the opportunity to unite our efforts on many projects," he says. "We consider it a blessing that we share a campus with the Loft. We are honored they have called us an 'LGBT-friendly church.' The world needs many more."

On the second Sunday of March, during 10 a.m. worship, Memorial will have a celebration welcoming The Loft. Church Within a Church, a national United Methodist organization promoting LGBT rights, MIND (Methodists in New Directions) and Lower Hudson LGBT organizations will also participate.

Memorial UMC, is located at 250 Bryant Avenue between North Street and Mamaroneck Avenue in White Plains. Its congregation strives to welcome and respect persons of every race, ethnicity, national origin, physical or mental ability, gender, family status, sexual orientation, age, theology, and economic circumstance. The Loft will have a separate entrance at 252 Bryant Avenue.

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