

Council of Churches

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the delegates to the NCC General Board. While lesbians and gay men are the principal target of the Radical Religious Right, the NCC has also been attacked by them for its allegedly revolutionary agenda.

The purpose of the lesbian/gay leadership meeting will be two-fold. The first is to share concerns and strategies among the various groups struggling within their respective denominations and in society at large. The second purpose is to be present at the National Council of Churches both to support UFMCC's relationship with that body and to remind delegates of the presence of gay and lesbian members in their own denominations.

Dr. White will address the delegates and lesbian/gay leaders on the topic "Our God Too: Religious Communities Confronting the Radical Religious Right". White was a husband, father of two children, pastor, professor, author and filmmaker. After years of hiding, self-hatred, suicide attempts, tranquilizers, shock therapy, psychotherapy, exorcism and "ex-gay" therapy, White gave it all up to live a new, more serene life as an openly gay man. As might be expected, his life as a conservative Christian celebrity fell apart. He had a long list of clients for whom he had ghost-written: Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Jim Bakker, Billy Graham and Oliver North. All of them disassociated from him. He was, however, invited to become Dean of the Cathedral of Hope Met-

ropolitan Community Church in Dallas--the largest lesbian/gay congregation in America--where he has served since June 1993.

White believes that the antigay propaganda generated by the Radical Religious Right is responsible for the deaths of many gays, either by encouraging hate crimes or by creating a climate that makes suicide an attractive option. "They are David Koresh and Jim Jones gone sophisticated," says White, who has ghost-written 16 best-selling books for religious celebrities. "They don't believe in democracy. They believe in a theocracy," White says of Falwell and Robertson. "They really believe God should be in charge of this nation and they are the closest link to God." He accuses them of disseminating "half-truths, hyperboles and lies."

"Falwell, Robertson and the others have gone too far," White says. "They are blaming gay people for everything bad that's happening in this country and, one by one, thoughtful Americans are beginning to wonder if this gay bashing isn't getting out of hand. This is not a gay and lesbian issue. This is a threat to the warp and woof of American society." ▼



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