

Virginia Ramey Mollenkott Selected as Inaugural Mother Eagle Award Recipient

The award, presented jointly by Christian Feminism Today and the Gay Christian Network, honors a woman integrally involved in advocating for LGBTQIA equality in Christianity.

INDIANAPOLIS (January 1, 2017) — Virginia Ramey Mollenkott, author and Christian LGBTQIA activist, has been selected as the first recipient of the Mother Eagle Award. The official award presentation will take place during the GCN WomenConnect retreat at the Gay Christian Network Conference in Pittsburgh, PA, on January 5, 2017.

The Mother Eagle Award was jointly created by the Gay Christian Network and Christian Feminism Today to honor women who have taken the lead in advocating for LGBTQIA equality in Christianity. The name of the award comes from Deuteronomy 32:11: “like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft” (NIV). This will be an annual award.

Though Mollenkott, 84, is unable to travel to accept the Mother Eagle award in person, a videotaped acceptance speech will be played during the GCN WomenConnect retreat.

About Virginia Ramey Mollenkott:

Author and English professor Dr. Virginia Ramey Mollenkott has spent a lifetime advocating for lesbian, gay, and bisexual rights in Christianity. Among her 13 books is the classic work of LGBT spirituality, *Is The Homosexual My Neighbor? A Positive Christian Response*, co-written with Letha Dawson Scanzoni and published in 1978. In her 2001 book, *Omnigender: A Trans-Religious Approach*, winner of a Lambda Literary Award, Mollenkott “moves beyond the current gender construct to offer a vision of a new, more flexible gender paradigm.” *Transgender Journeys*, a Lambda Award finalist, was co-authored with trans activist Vanessa Sheridan and published in 2004. Virginia was a stylistic consultant for the New International Version of the Bible, and served as a member of the National Council of Churches' Inclusive Language Lectionary Committee. Mollenkott received her undergraduate degree from Bob Jones University, her M.A. from Temple University, her Ph.D. from New York University, and an honorary D. Min. from Samaritan Seminary (UFMCC). She lives in New Jersey with her wife, Suzannah Tilton. Find more information about Dr. Mollenkott on her website, www.virginiamollenkott.com.

About The Gay Christian Network:

The Gay Christian Network is an interdenominational nonprofit organization educating and equipping Christians worldwide to support LGBTQIA people and their loved ones. Founded in 2001, GCN offers an online community with nearly 30,000 members, as well as providing videos, articles, and other resources through its website at gaychristian.net. The GCN Conference is the world's largest annual LGBTQIA Christian event, supporting LGBTQIA Christians and allies for over 13 years. Find more information about the GCN Conference on the conference website, <https://gcnconf.com>.

About Christian Feminism Today:

With a history dating from 1973, Christian Feminism Today (originally the Evangelical Women's Caucus) is an international ecumenical organization working to promote gender justice in Christianity. In 1986 the organization voted to take an official position in support of lesbian and gay equality, likely the first evangelical organization to do so. CFT's primary outreach vehicle is its website, *Christian Feminism Today*, featuring hundreds of reviews, articles, blog posts, and Bible studies of interest to progressive Christians. Visit Christian Feminism Today on the web at <https://eewc.com>.

For more information about the Mother Eagle Award, please contact Marg Herder, Director of Public Information for Christian Feminism Today at 317-414-8157 or office@eewc.com.

