

**GALA 5-year Strategic Plan  
Developed on January 16, 2016**

*“For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star overhead.”*

***Setting the Table—Creating Safe Spaces***

We recognize that everyone needs a safe place where they can come to meet with others. It is important for us to all recognize that we all have responsibilities toward helping to create those spaces; GALA as an organization also has a responsibility to help ensure those safe places.

Through the years, GALA has created some safe places through activities, and we will continue those activities. We are also hoping to expand opportunities to set the table.

**Year 1 (2016) Objective:**

**GALA will help Reunions and Youth Camping Experiences to become more inclusive of LGBTQ persons.**

**Action Step 1:** Gather information on current experiences from multiple areas of the country. This information-gathering may take place during a workshop during the Annual GALA Retreat as well as other options. Target Date for completion: 11/1/16

**Action Step 2:** Put together document on current experiences and recommended changes to present to church leadership. Target Date for completion: 1/1/17

***Connecting at the Table – Communication***

We need to communicate more effectively with each other. Communication helps us learn about each other and make connections with each other. This communication should be informative, respectful, and include input from all.

**Year 1 (2016) Objective 1:**

**GALA will create an increased presence on Social Media.**

**Action Step 1:** Erin Cavanaugh will create a closed Facebook group for GALA members and friends. Target Date for completion: 2/1/16

**Action Step 2:** GALA board members will create community standards for the Facebook group prior to opening it up to the membership. Target Date for completion: 5/1/16

**Action Step 3:** Jerry Dale, Jr. will create an Instagram account for the GALA organization. Target Date for completion: 2/1/16

**Year 2 (2016) Objective 2:**

**GALA will increase communication with the USA Field Leadership.**

**Action Step 1:** Jerry Dale, Jr. will reach out to Barbara Carter to determine the best method for achieving this objective. Target Date for completion: 3/1/16

***Nourishing at the Table – Engaging Membership***

It's important for us to be nourished, personally and spiritually. If we are not fed, we will die. There are many ways to be nourished; engaging the membership more actively in the life of GALA is a beginning.

**Year 1 (2016) Objective 1:**

**GALA will schedule regular calls with members to keep in contact and update them regarding current business/concerns. The first call will be scheduled for 2/28/16.**

**Action Step 1:** Jerry Dale, Jr. will create a Facebook event for the member call. Target Date for completion: 2/1/16

**Action Step 2:** Erin Cavanaugh & Pam Robison will send a newsblast to advertise the member call. Target Date for completion: 2/1/16

**Action Step 3:** Stephen Donahoe & Sandra Merth will reference the call in the Membership Renewal letter to be post mailed to members. Target Date for completion: 2/1/16

**Action Step 4:** Pam Robison will update the GALA website to include information on the member call. Target Date for completion: 2/1/16

***Expanding the Table – Outreach***

There are many opportunities for outreach, both as individuals and as an organization. In order to reach those most in need of our table, we need to reach out and expand our group in order to provide ministry to those who are not yet aware of GALA and/or the Community of Christ.

**Year 1 (2016) Objective 1:**

**GALA will increase our interaction and connection with Latter Day Seekers.**

**Action Step 1:** Dan Gregory will connect with seeker leaders (Robin, Seth, Lach) to determine how we can be of assistance. Target Date for completion: 2/1/16

**Action Step 2:** GALA board members will increase our visibility in Latter Day Seeker Facebook groups to determine how we can be of assistance. Target Date for completion: ongoing

**Action Step 3:** Erin Cavanaugh will discuss the option of creating a non-geographic-based GALA affiliate with Seth Bryant. Target Date for completion: 2/1/16

**Action Step 4:** The GALA Board will plan to hold the 2017 GALA International Retreat in Utah, if possible. Target Date for completion: 5/1/16

**Year 1 (2016) Objective 2:**

**GALA will analyze and connect with church leadership to make suggestions for changes needed to the Registered Youth Worker training curriculum.**

**Action Step 1:** Lisa Meyer, Stephen Donahoe, & Sandra Merth will read and analyze the current training material/curriculum. Target Date for completion: 4/1/16

**Action Step 2:** The above noted group will hold a conference call to discuss recommendations for change. Target Date for completion: 5/1/16

**Action Step 3:** Sandra Merth will connect with Karen Minton & Scott Murphy to discuss the project. Target Date for completion: 2/1/16

**Action Step 4:** Lisa Meyer, Stephen Donahoe, & Sandra Merth will create written recommendations to provide to the Board and then the church leadership for consideration. Target Date for completion: 6/1/16