

## Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder Selected as the 2018 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 (October 1, 2017) — Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder, pastor and Christian LGBTQIA activist, has been selected as the 2018 recipient of the Mother Eagle Award. The official award presentation will take place during the Gay Christian Network Conference in Denver, CO, on January 18, 2018.

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 is an annual award. Virginia Ramey Mollenkott was the recipient of the inaugural award in 2017.

### About Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder



Rev. Dr. Yvette A. Flunder is an unapologetic disciple and proponent of the radically inclusive love of Jesus Christ, she has raised her voice for justice from the church house to the White House and the steps of the Supreme Court.

Along with 15 charter members, Bishop Flunder founded [City of Refuge UCC](#) in 1991. The ministry has grown into a thriving inner-city congregation. In June 2003 Rev. Dr. Flunder was consecrated Presiding Bishop of The Fellowship (founded in 2000 and renamed The [Fellowship of Affirming Ministries](#) in 2011), a multi-denominational coalition of over 100 primarily African American Christian leaders and laity representing churches throughout the world.

Responding to the needs of the AIDS epidemic, Bishop Flunder and her staff opened Hazard-Ashley House and Walker House in Oakland, CA, and Restoration House in San Francisco through the Ark of Refuge, Inc., a nonprofit agency that provided housing, direct services, education, and training for persons affected by HIV/AIDS in the Bay Area, throughout the USA, and in three countries in Africa.

The Ark of Refuge transitioned into the Y. A. Flunder Foundation, which continues the work of social justice exemplified through service and public advocacy, including collaborative partnerships to support the Mother of Peace Orphanage in Mutoko, Zimbabwe.

Bishop Flunder is a graduate of Pacific School of Religion and San Francisco Theological Seminary.

### 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](http://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, <http://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 [at] eewc [dot] com.

