

What do you really know about the

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER

IHOP - Kansas City



A cult of dominionism, intolerance, and a history of bigotry.

Think about what and who you are supporting by associating with IHOP. Prayer is one thing, but the intrusion of personal beliefs into the public sphere and a culture of hatred and intolerance is something else.

The **INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF PRAYER**, or IHOP, says on its website that it is “committed to praying for the release of the fullness of God’s power and purpose, as we actively win the lost, heal the sick, feed the poor, make disciples, and impact every sphere of society—family, education, government, economy, arts, media, religion, etc.”¹

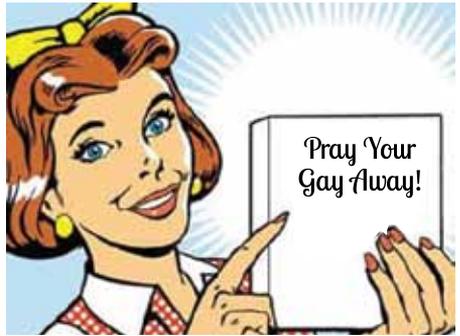
BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Judging by the church’s actions and affiliations, it means an astonishing amount of bigotry toward anyone not following a fundamentalist Christian lifestyle—especially those who are gay or who support women’s reproductive rights.

Look at some of the statements attributed to IHOP’s leaders, as well as the agendas of affiliated organizations and individuals:

MIKE BICKLE

the International House of Prayer’s founder, claims that Christians who are gay are opening themselves up to attacks from Satan. Bickle, who is best known for saying Oprah Winfrey is the harbinger of the Antichrist² and arguing that the “gay marriage agenda” is “rooted in the depths of Hell,”³ said in an interview about homosexuality that gays and lesbians must “declare war” against their sexual orientation or will face “flaming missiles of the Evil One.”⁴



IHOP is affiliated with **DESERT STREAM AND LIVING WATERS** “ex-gay” ministries—which promote “therapy” that purports to turn gays into heterosexuals.⁵ These therapies have been condemned by all leading medical and mental health organizations in the United States, including the American Psychological Association and the American Medical Association.⁶ Consider the words of one man who was active in the ex-gay ministry movement and has since left:

“There’s psychological damage when change doesn’t occur, when sexual orientation remains homosexual. I certainly heard stories and knew people who committed suicide. I’ve seen what I believe is a higher incidence of risky behavior and alcohol and drug use among a lot of people who go through an ex-gay ministry. A lot of it is because of spiritual conflict that emerges going through that, feeling betrayed by God, feeling betrayed by the church.”⁷



LOU ENGLE

an evangelical who has spoken at IHOP conferences and whose books are for sale on the IHOP website, has spoken out internationally in support of legislation aimed at gays—including a bill in Uganda that would have made homosexuality punishable by death. Engle praised the country's "courage" and "righteousness" in promoting the bill.⁸

In associating closely with Engle, IHOP is associating with a man who believes that the tornado that killed more than 150 people in Joplin, MO, in 2011 was sent by God. At IHOP's 2011 Onething conference, Engle reiterated his claim that the Joplin tornado was a sign of "the beginning of God's redemptive judgments" for abortion.⁹

1. <http://www.ihopkc.org/about/>
2. Watch video on Rightwing Watch: <http://bit.ly/YyhZPa>
3. Watch video on Rightwing Watch: <http://bit.ly/VjJUPER>
4. Watch Youtbue video: <http://bit.ly/103GdBg>
5. Desert Stream: <http://bit.ly/103GdBg>
6. Human Right Campaign: <http://bit.ly/12GOUAd>
7. Southern Poverty Law Center: <http://bit.ly/VjVqgc>
8. New York Times: <http://nyti.ms/TfEt2u>
9. Listen at Rightwing Watch: <http://bit.ly/UZCwG9>

Document composed by Kansas City Atheist Coalition: kcatheists.org

These are only a few examples of the statements and worldviews that IHOP supports, either directly or through close association. We encourage anyone attending the **ONETHING CONFERENCE** to learn more about the IHOP organization, whose radical and dangerous views are described in numerous reports widely available online, and ask themselves whether this is a group worthy of their support.

DOMINIONIS M

Influencing secular civil government through political action with the goal of establishing a nation governed by evangelical Christians.

CONVERSION THERAPY

Religiously based pseudo-scientific therapy that aims to change sexual orientation. Condemned by the American Psychiatric Association, therapy is based upon the incorrect assumption that homosexuality is a mental disorder and that a patient should change their sexual orientation in order to be well.

MISOGYNY

Cultural attitude of placing women in subordinate positions with limited access to power and decision making. In Christianity, misogyny engenders guilt about sex, insists on female subjugation, and dread of female sexuality.

GUILT BEHAVIOR

A religious movement that may encourage separation from non-member family and friends, authoritarian leadership with moral double-standards, focus on recruitment and dependence on the group for daily needs, and often featuring a very apocalyptic outlook on the world that reinforces isolation.

No matter your views on the morality of sexuality, women's rights, and religious freedom, shouldn't kindness and acceptance be the most fundamental values that you choose to act upon? Ask yourself how this organization treats others who are different or marginalized by society.