

May 19

IS ANYONE ELSE OUT THERE GAY?

Heritage Sunday

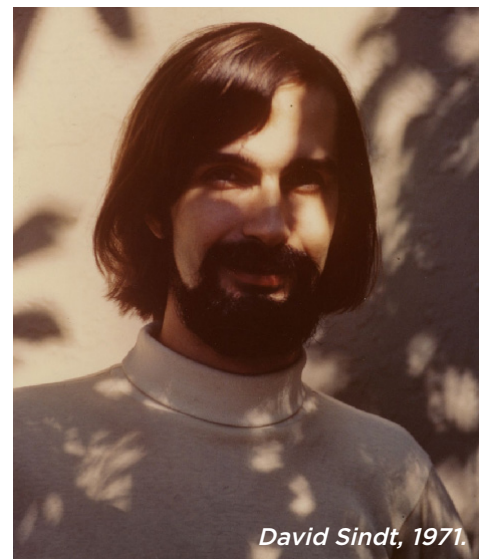
Fifty years ago, at the 1974 General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (UPCUSA), David Sindt rose from his seat and bravely and hopefully held up a sign with a single question: **“Is anyone else out there gay?”**

Two years before, in 1972, Sindt, an ordained minister and openly gay man, was called by Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church to serve as assistant pastor to the congregation. However, the Presbytery of Chicago rejected Lincoln Park’s request, which was believed to be the first ever call issued to an openly gay man by a Presbyterian church.

At the 1974 General Assembly, a group rallied around Sindt. Eventually gaining shape and momentum, this collective became the Presbyterian Gay Caucus (PGC). With Sindt serving as national coordinator, PGC established a network of LGBTQIA+ allies who held each other up as they worked tirelessly to win full membership and ordination rights within the church. PGC morphed into Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns in 1977, and continues today as More Light Presbyterians.

The story of David Sindt’s bravery at the 1974 General Assembly is a turning point in the movement for LGBTQIA+ inclusion in the Church. This Heritage Sunday, let us remember this vivid image of resilience and unfettered hope.

Heritage Sunday is a day of celebration set aside by the General Assembly of the PC(USA). To celebrate and learn more about the history of Presbyterianism in America visit: www.history.pcusa.org/hs



David Sindt, 1971.