

Press Release - 2 May 2014

for immediate use

Oasis Trust thrown out by Evangelical Alliance

Evangelical Alliance, whose tagline is "better together", today announced that it had 'discontinued' Oasis Trust's membership of the Alliance following their support for same-sex relationships. Last year Steve Chalke and Oasis has called for a rethink in the church on the issue of homosexuality.

This is not the first time that Evangelical Alliance has taken action against one of its members.

In 1999, the organisation played its part in 'outing' [Roy Clements](#) - one of its own Council members - after they became aware of his sexuality, forcing his resignation and leaving him homeless and jobless.

Then in 2001, [Jeremy Marks and Courage](#) were forced to resign their membership of Evangelical Alliance after changing their ministry from one which sought to prevent gay Christians finding a same-sex partner to one which supported same-sex relationships.

This decision however, appears to have been much more difficult for the Alliance and 15 months of negotiation has been going on behind the scenes.

The reason for such a protracted deliberation is clearly the change which is occurring among evangelicals. Gone are the days when there was one evangelical view on sexuality, and yet organisations like EA try to continue living as if this were true.

EA cite Oasis's failure to "*adjust the content of their website/resources and social media output to equally profile the traditional Christian view*" as a reason for removing them, and yet EA's own publications give no space to a more progressive evangelical theology of sexuality.

Rev Benny Hazlehurst, Director of Accepting Evangelicals said "The loss of Oasis and Steve Chalke will do more damage to Evangelical Alliance than to Oasis, and it seriously undermines their slogan and 'better together'. They can also no longer claim to represent the UK's two million evangelical Christians as there are clearly many evangelicals who they no longer represent, or who they are unwilling to represent."

Accepting Evangelicals is proud to have Steve Chalke as one of our Patrons and we continue to support the work of Oasis in schools, churches and communities in the UK and around the world.

ENDS

Accepting Evangelicals is an open network of Evangelical Christians who believe the time has come to move towards the acceptance of faithful, loving same-sex partnerships at every level of church life, and the development of a positive Christian ethic for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. www.acceptingevangelicals.org

Steve Chalke and Oaisis have called for a rethink in the church on the issue of homosexuality.
<http://www.oasisuk.org/article.aspx?menuId=31973>

Background information on Steve Chalke <http://www.oasisuk.org/article.aspx?menuId=31973>

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