

**EMPIRE STATE
PRIDE AGENDA
FOUNDATION**



Mr. Martin Franks
Executive Vice President
CBS Communications
51 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019

December 3, 2004

Dear Mr. Franks:

We are people of faith, clergy, and lay people from across New York State representing hundreds of communities of faith and dozens of faith traditions. We are united through Pride in the Pulpit, New York's faith-based network which openly advocates for equality and justice for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and our families. We are writing to express concern over CBS's refusal to air the United Church of Christ "Stillspeaking" ad. The network's decision to reject this ad because it is "too controversial" sends the message that anti-gay legislation and racist exclusion take precedence over respect for diversity and inclusiveness.

We commend the United Church of Christ for their commitment to inclusiveness and their willingness to openly support LGBT people of faith. The ad campaign recently launched by the United Church of Christ sends a clear message that *all* people of faith are welcome to worship together. Through Pride in the Pulpit we are actively working to ensure that LGBT people of faith are welcomed and celebrated in communities of all denominations and faith traditions. Though we may have different religious perspectives, there is one point on which we unanimously agree: all families deserve equality and justice.

We firmly believe that fairness and justice should never take a backseat to bigoted, divisive politics. We urge CBS to offer a formal apology to its viewers, to the LGBT community, and to people of color for this unfortunate misjudgment.

Every day we act as shepherds for communities that look to us for spiritual and ethical guidance. We are now coming to CBS with the hope that the network will choose a message of equality and justice for all families, not just some.

Sincerely,

Rabbi David Adelson
East End Temple
New York, NY

Rev. Pat Bumgardner
Metropolitan Community Church of NY
New York, NY

Rev. Steve Clunn
First United Methodist Church
Schenectady, NY

Rev. Lynette A. Curley-Roam, LCSW-R
Emmaus United Amer. Catholic Church
Yaphank, NY

Rev. Susan DeGeorge
South Presbyterian Church
Dobbs Ferry, NY

Rev. Gary E. Doupe
Centenary-Chenango Street United
Methodist Church
Binghamton, NY

Rev. Koshin Paley Ellison,
Soto Zen Buddhist Priest
New York, NY

(cont'd)

Rev. William Feinberg
Unitarian Universalist Society of South
Suffolk
Bay Shore, NY

Rev. Dick Gilbert
First Unitarian Church of Ithaca
Ithaca, NY

Rev. Kay Greenleaf
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Poughkeepsie, NY

Rev. Dr. Robert W. Gunn
United Church of Rockville Centre
Rockville Centre, NY

Rev. Michael Heath
Fayetteville, NY

Rev. Carol Huston
Community Unitarian Church
White Plains, NY

Rev. Takayuki Ishii
Metropolitan-Duane United Methodist
Church
New York, NY

Rev. Cari Jackson
The Center of Spiritual Light
New York, NY

Rev. Martha R. Jacobs, Associate
Director of Pastoral Education
The HealthCare Chaplaincy
New York, NY

Rev. John Magisano
Chelsea Community Church
New York, NY

Rev. Anne Marsh
Unitarian Universalist Church
Canton, NY

Iya SoJourneyer McCauley
Creations for Empowerment
Bronx, NY

Rev. Andrew McTyre
Park Central Presbyterian
Syracuse, NY

Rev. Deb Morra, CSW
Community Unitarian Church
White Plains, NY

Venerable T. Kenjitsu Nakagaki
New York Buddhist Church
New York, NY

Rev. Dámaris E. Ortega
San Romero de Las Américas
New York, NY

Rev. David C. Parsons
St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran
Brooklyn, NY

Rev. W. Franc Perry
Metropolitan Community Church of NY
New York, NY

Pastor Marna Pritchard
First Congregational United Church of
Christ
Niagara Falls, NY

Rev. Susan Veronica Rak
Unitarian Universalist Church of Flushing
Flushing, NY

Rev. Paul Ratzlaff
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Huntington
Huntington, NY

Rev. Paul B. Raushenbush
Princeton University
Princeton, NY

Rev. Dr. Diane Samuels
Mount Sinai Congregational United
Church of Christ
Mount Sinai, NY

Rev. Will J. Seals, Jr.
Lake Avenue Baptist Church
Rochester, NY

(cont'd)

Rev. Bruce Southworth
The Community Church of NY Unitarian
Universalist
New York, NY

Rev. Dr. Jane Adams Spahr
That All May Freely Serve
Rochester, NY

Rev. Andrea L. Stoeckel, Interim Minister
United Church of Christ, NY Conference
Liverpool, NY

Rev. Krishna Stone
New York, NY

Rev. Philip M. Trzynka
Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Parish
New York, NY

Rev. George A Tyger
First Universalist Church of Rochester
Rochester, NY

Rev. Rebecca Voelkel, Interim National
Coordinator
The United Church of Christ Coalition for
LGBT Concerns
Cleveland, OH

Rev. Lynn Walker
Brooklyn, NY

Rev. Judith A. Westerhoff, Member
Presbytery of Utica
Clinton, NY

Rev. Wade Wheelock
Unitarian Universalist Church
Canton, NY

Rev. Dr. Mark Wind
New York, NY

Raymond J. Bagnuolo, Elder
Presbyterian Church USA
White Plains, NY

Timothy Brown, Youth & Young Adult
Coordinator
The United Church of Christ Coalition for
LGBT Concerns
Gilboa, NY

Andy Buck
New York, NY

Patricia A. Crawford
Brooklyn, NY

Robert O. Day, Member
Calvary St. Andrew Parrish
Rochester, N.Y.

Leslie Gordon, Member
Congregation Sons of Israel
Briarcliff Manor, NY

Glen Hoffs, Member
Metropolitan-Duane United Methodist
Church
New York, NY

Wendee Jacobson, Member
Dignity Integrity of Rochester
Rochester, NY

Sharon Jacobson
Rochester, NY

Amy Lavine, Co-Chair
Out & Faithful: LGBT People, Religion &
Spirituality
New York, NY

Louis Martarano
New York, NY

Emanuel Meli, Member
Asbury Crestwood United Methodist
Church
Tuckahoe, NY

Dr. Robert L. Miller, Jr.
Albany, NY

The Neff-Hall Family, Members
First Unitarian Society
Niskayuna, NY

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Todd A Plank, Member
First Universalist Church of Rochester
Rochester, NY

Edward Poliandro
Brooklyn, NY

Mark Roy, Member
St. Bartholomew's Church (Episcopal)
Jackson Heights, NY

Allen Scheler
New York, NY

Frank A. Ward, II, Vice-Moderator
Ray of Hope Church of Our Lord Jesus
Christ, Inc.
Syracuse, NY

Cc: Joan M. Garry, Executive Director, The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against
Defamation (GLAAD)
Barb Powell, Press Contact, United Church of Christ

*Pride in the Pulpit is a program of the Empire State Pride Agenda Foundation.
Founded in 1995, the Empire State Pride Agenda Foundation is the non-partisan,
501(c)3 research, education and advocacy arm of the Empire State Pride Agenda.*