

"Never place a period
where God has placed a comma"



God is still speaking.

(Grace Allen)

PARKROSE COMMUNITY
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



August 12, 2007

SENT BY FAX

The Rev. Gary Simons
High Point Church
P.O. Box 150478
Arlington, TX 76015

Dear Rev. Simons:

I join millions of Christians across our nation in deep dismay and embarrassment after learning of your decision not to offer funeral services to a United States veteran because of his sexual orientation. Your decision reflects poorly on all Christians and is based on a fundamental misreading of God's will.

In Matthew Chapter 22 we hear:

³⁶Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest? ³⁷He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." (NRSV)

When you turned this family away didn't you break the greatest commandment of all? After all, Jesus says not a bad word about gays. But he does preach about love and compassion as being available to everyone.

You abandoned a family in need during a time of crisis. At the very least, this is a gross breach of professional pastoral ethics.

Please take this time to reexamine your understanding of Scripture. Open your heart to God's love and compassion. We can all learn from this mistake by looking into our own hearts and finding those places where we fail God.

Your brother in Christ,

The Rev. Chuck Currie