

# THE REV. CHARLES STEPHEN CURRIE, JR.

A MINISTER IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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The Honorable Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

There has been much speculation that you might endorse full marriage equality for gays and lesbians this week when you visit New York. As a minister in the United Church of Christ, I encourage you to do so.

The General Synod of the United Church of Christ endorsed marriage equality in 2005. The resolution adopted read, in part:

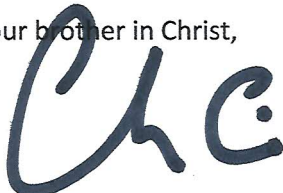
The message of the Gospel is the lens through which the whole of scripture is to be interpreted. Love and compassion, justice and peace are at the very core of the life and ministry of Jesus. It is a message that always bends toward inclusion. The biblical story recounts the ways in which inclusion and welcome to God's community is ever-expanding – from the story of Abraham and Sarah, to the inclusive ministry of Jesus, to the baptism of Cornelius, to the missionary journeys of Paul throughout the Greco-Roman world. The liberating work of the Spirit as witnessed in the activities of Jesus' ministry has been to address the situations and structures of exclusion, injustice and oppression that diminish God's people and keep them from realizing the full gift of human personhood in the context of human communion.

It is time for the United States to further expand the rights of our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters - they should have the same legal rights that my wife and I enjoy by virtue of our gender.

As a minister, the state should not dictate whose marriage certificate I can or cannot sign. This is an issue of religious freedom, as well.

I pray that the Spirit will move you to be the president who undertakes this historic act of justice - no matter the risk - because, as Dr. King reminded us, the time is always ripe to do right.

Your brother in Christ,



The Rev. Chuck Currie