



Soulforce, Inc.

October 31, 2006

President Brown  
Cedarville University  
251 N. Main Street  
Cedarville, OH 45314

Dear Dr. Brown,

Greetings from Minnesota. I am writing to you to invite your feedback on a possible Soulforce Equality Ride stop at your school next spring.

The first-ever Equality Ride this past spring was a journey by thirty-three young adults to nineteen colleges and universities to foster dialogue about gay and lesbian issues. It was an incredible academic and spiritual learning time for both Equality Riders and students across America.

The issue of homosexuality is a controversial one these days in both religious and political spheres, but we feel that everyone is best served by open dialogue surrounding this topic. It is to the greater good when an institution of higher learning sanctions and supports dialogue of such a difficult subject matter; it encourages students especially to grapple with weighty and timely issues as part of their education.

We were blessed on the Equality Ride to be welcomed onto campus at the majority of our stops to host forums, give presentations, guide classroom discussion, meet with student body leaders, professors, and administrators, and engage in casual dialogue with students. Even though there may have been strong theological differences, it did not make cooperative dialogue disagreeable.

At many of our school visits, we were the first openly gay and affirming voice invited into the discussion of sexuality and faith. Our days were characterized by dedication to heartfelt dialogue and the intention to understand. This was the general attitude of everyone involved, and certainly a prerequisite for any Soulforce participant. We hope to continue in the same spirit and format at nearly forty schools next spring.

We are pursuing the same opportunity at your school because your school handbook maintains a policy that creates a disparity between treatment of homosexual and heterosexual students. It is a policy that would make it difficult for a gay student to raise his or her theological opposition to the traditional teaching about our humanity.

The Soulforce Equality Ride 2007 will take place in March and April with two separate groups of about twenty-five young adults each. Before we decide our route and schedule, we wish to hear your reaction to the possibility of opening up this dialogue with the Equality Riders at your school. Though we feel strongly called to engage in peaceful and earnest dialogue where we feel our humanity is impugned, we will of course take your reaction and reasoning into careful and prayerful consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time. I do hope it is possible to receive your response by early December.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jarrett Lucas".

Jarrett Lucas  
Soulforce Equality Ride Co-Director