



Rev. David Strong

I'm here today to speak as Christian pastor, to speak a message of hope to young people who are coming to terms with their sexual orientation, ministries such as Groundswell, no matter how compassionate sounding create guilt, shame and untold harm in the lives of gay and lesbian young people.

It is my belief that ministries should be conducted in our churches and not in our schools. We cannot allow our gay and lesbian youth's value as a human being, to be diminished by ex-

gay ministries. Young people deserve the right to grow up in communities where they find support, compassion and ministries that affirm their value as people created in the image and likeness of God.

We are here to say that God's love for these young people is unconditional. That there are communities of faith that will help you to grow in your faith in which you will be affirmed and not condemned. That our schools have a mandate to provide a safe space for all children and their families.

Rev. David Strong serves as Pastor of the Christian Community Church of Joy.

<http://www.communitychurchofjoy.org>

He also serves on the Governing Board of the International Christian Community Churches, and Boards of the Religious Coalition for Equality and Multifaith Works. He attended the University of Saint Thomas, Saint Paul, Minnesota and the Emmaus Institute, Atlanta, Georgia for Theological Studies and is a Nonprofit Administrator in his secular work.