St. Luke Methodist Church

HENDERSON & HEATH STREETS

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Mr. Ed Strickland
Alabama Peace Commission
Room 332
State Capitol Building
Montgomery, Alabama

Dear Ed:

Please allow me to introduce myself. Other than being minister of the St. Luke Church, I am Chaplain of the Alabama House of Representatives, Chaplain of the local police department, newspaper columnist, and most of all a concerned individual about the dastardly trends of our day.

I called my friend McDonald Gallion and asked him for some information and an opinion which he readily gave, and then referred me to you for further information. Here is the situation:

> Three or four months ago in our Methodist Sunday School literature for third and fourth graders a pencil sketch drawing of Martin Luther King appeared. He was sitting in a jail cell and writing a letter. He was compared and associated in the same vein with St. Paul and his letter writing which, of course, today is our Holy Scripture.

For me to say that this presentation of M. L. King is repulsive is an understatement. I am unable to select words that express what this picture and association caused me to feel. As a leader in the church there may be steps which I can take to curb this sort of thing. I asked Mr. Mac, the other day, if there was any concluding evidence concerning M. L. King's, among other things, being a homosexual. We discussed his very devoted Communist friend Ruskin and then his devoted associate Abernathy. Mr. Mac assured me that both Ruskin and Abernathy have been tried and convicted of homosexuality. He knew at the moment of no case where M. L. King had been tried. However, he stated that his personal opinion and his observations due to associations and otherwise concluded that King was a homosexual.

After opening the House of Representatives with prayer some four and one-half to five years ago, I fell into conversation with one of our state investigators whose name I cannot remember. He assured me that day that there were photographs available in someone's office in the Capitol which was conclusive evidence of King's homosexuality. He offered to make them available to me, but due to an appointment, time did not permit my reviewing them. I thought I remembered his saying that they were in the Attorney General's office. However, since that time we have had Richmond Flowers occupy the office which could account for their not being there, if they did, in fact, exist. Mr. Mac told me that you might have such information or other information which would be conclusive that M. L. King has indulged in homosexuality.

Mr. Strickland, I am not trying to start a war with M. L. King or any other Negro leader. I am, however, concerned about what appears in the literature of my church. My prime concern in whatever information you may be able to furnish is to satisfy my own mind concerning this individual who has for too long called the shots in government, housing, economics, and whatever seems to come to his mind.

I will be most grateful for any information which you may be able to give me and of your opinion concerning the moral character of M. L. King.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

John

John P. Thomas

JPT:fch