It cannot be historically denied that the Church as an institution has covertly and systematically condoned and implemented the oppression of homosexual women and men. From the genocide of the Spanish Inquisition through the Puritan ethic to the current denial of church membership, the organized Church has, in a most unloving and unChristian manner, denied the right to freely exist to untold millions of gay men and women. It has forced gay women and men to live fragmented lives, living in fear of discovery and living obsessed with guilt. The Church has acted with complicity in the institutionalization, jailing, and murder of gay men and women. It has looked aside as thousands of suicide victims and alcoholics have searched for salvation. Moreover, the Church has been hypocritical in its ministry toward gay people, with some conferences accepting gay members and ministers. We of the Gay Liberation Front say, "No more!" What have you done for gay Methodists? What have you done for gay ministers? What have you done for gay people as a whole?

We demand that the Southwest Texas Annual Conference go publicly on record in answer to the following list of demands:

1. That the authenticity of the gay life style be accepted.

2. That the Church cease to teach and reinforce the false categories of heterosexuality and homosexuality and declare that each individual has the capacity to love another individual--regardless of sex, age, or race. That the Church should recognize the merits of sisters learning how to love sisters, and of brothers learning how to love brothers--and that this be called gay.

3. That the Church cease to reinforce the nuclear family which oppresses women, children, and gay people; that instead the Church affirm the expanded family collective living concept as the alternative to the nuclear family.

4. That the Church cease treating gay men and women as only sexual beings, but instead look at them in their total integrated humanity.

5. That the Church lead in the education of its members concerning rejection of the proposed Texas penal code because it does not abolish penalties for homosexual "sodomy."

6. That, in light of its historical oppression, the Church make sizeable reparations to gay people in the form of programs, facilities, and money.

7. That the Church see our oppression not separate, but linked, to the oppression of all other groups, and that the Church particularly notice the demands of Third World people and of women.

8. That the Church direct all of its energies toward people and relinquish its power in the secular community, especially by stopping its perpetuation as an economic entity.

9. That the Church bring itself up-to-date with all rituals and teachings to coincide with the consciousness of gay people.

10. That the Church publicly at this session cease the harassment of Gene Leggett and support in all ways neccessary--including financial--the House of the Covenant, which is the Southwest Texas Methodist Conference's only link to the gay community.

THAT NO FURTHER BUSINESS TAKE PLACE UNTIL THIS ISSUE IS SETTLED.

Then He will answer them,

"Truly, I say to you, as you did
it not to one of the least of
these, you did it not to me. And
they will go away into eternal
punishment, but the righteous
into eternal life."

Matthew 25:45-46

(Collectively written by members from Gay Liberation in San Antonio, Austin, Houston, Dallas, Denton, San Francisco, Detroit, and New York.)