



## Homobigot Rick Warren to deliver invocation at inauguration

by: Pam Spaulding

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**UPDATE:** Have complaints to share? Email Parag Mehta is Obama's LGBT liaison on the transition team - [parag.mehta@ptt.gov](mailto:parag.mehta@ptt.gov). Feel free to share your missive to the team in the comments.

**UPDATE 2:** Bumping this back up top since I am continuing to add reactions to this announcement below the fold.

**UPDATE 3:** I will be on Glenn Greenwald's podcast tomorrow AM to talk about this travesty.

**UPDATE 4:** I hate to break it to them, but this statement out of the Obama camp isn't going to help them on the damage control front. They've invited a homophobic, womb-control advocate to open the inauguration, but it's just about outreach.

Linda Douglas, a spokeswoman for Obama, defended the choice of Warren, saying, "This is going to be the most inclusive, open, accessible inauguration in American history." "The president-elect certainly disagrees with him on [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender] issues. But it has always been his goal to find common ground with people with whom you may disagree on some issues."

I'm sorry, but you don't have to give the podium and mic to someone who cannot understand church-state separation, a man who like Dobson, would like the state in everyone's bedroom. This wasn't a committee that inadvertently put a fundie on board, the announcement says: "*The program participants were based on requests from the Presidential-elect and the Vice President-elect.*"

Here's a nice tidbit about Warren. He thought of his support for Prop 8 as a "free speech" matter. Via Jim Burroway at Box Turtle Bulletin:

Rick Warren: Oh I do. I just... For five thousand years, marriage has been defined by every single culture and every single religion - this is not a Christian issue. Buddhists, Muslims, the Jews, historically marriage is a man and a woman. And so I'm opposed to that. And the reason I supported Prop 8 really, was a free speech issue. Because if it had.... First, the court overrid the will of the people. But second, is, there were all kinds of threats that if you... that did not pass, then any pastor could be considered doing hate speech if he shared his views that he didn't think homosexuality was the most natural way for relationships. And that would be hate speech. To me, we should have freedom of speech. And you should be able to have freedom of speech to make your position, and I should be able to have freedom of speech to make my position. And can we do this in a civil way?

This selection is clearly not about "change" -- it's about making a high profile decision to give the stage over to a known homophobe; choosing Rick Warren is tantamount to asking any of the professional "Christian" set to stand up there. There is no excuse for this, given there are so many leaders of the faith community out there that are in alignment with equality for all.

**More below the fold, including reactions from LGBT organizations** (I'm adding them as they come in).

**Statement by Rea Carey, Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force:**

**"President-elect Obama campaigned on a theme of inclusivity, yet the selection of Rick Warren to give the invocation is a direct affront to that very principle. This was a divisive choice, and clearly not one that will help our country come together and heal. We urge President-elect Obama to withdraw his invitation to Rick Warren and instead select a faith leader who embraces fairness, equality and the ideals the president-elect himself has called the nation to uphold."**