

## **Forum Explores How Christian Values Are Reflected in Political Parties at University Christian Church on April 20**

Representatives of four political parties in Travis County – the Democratic, Republican, Green and Libertarian parties – will discuss how each party can be seen as consistent with Christian values in a special forum at 2 p.m., Sunday, April 20 at University Christian Church at 2007 University Avenue, Austin.

“More than ever before, concern over religious values appears to be permeating political discussion in this nation,” said Senior Minister Charles Kutz-Marks. “This stimulated us to ponder some obvious questions: Does any one political party represent true Christian values better than the others? How do voters, and especially activists, reconcile their deep religious beliefs with the policies and philosophies of the parties they support? How do the parties see themselves in relation to ethical issues, and as a corollary, how does each define and select the values considered to be most important? We decided that an election year is an ideal time to examine these questions in to the light of an open forum.”

The forum is offered to the public without charge. **Titled “How Would Jesus Vote? How Christian Values Are Reflected Within Political Parties,”** the dialogue will feature four experienced activists in their chosen political parties who also have strong Christian backgrounds:

(Listed in alphabetical order by party)

- **Democratic Party – Geronimo Rodriguez**, now an attorney, went from picking fruit as a migrant farm worker to helping select President Bill Clinton's cabinet as member of the White House staff. He has served in the US Dept. of Labor, the Texas Attorney General's office, and in executive positions in several national and state election campaigns.

- **Green Party – Dr. Charles Wukasch** has taught at numerous universities in the U.S. and abroad. Having tired of the monopoly that the two major parties have on the American political process, he joined the Green Party several years ago. His religious affiliations are Lutheran and Episcopal.
- **Libertarian Party – Rev. Adam Groza** is an ordained Southern Baptist minister and a doctoral candidate in philosophy who has served as an adjunct professor. His editorials on faith and culture have been published in the Ft. Worth Star Telegram and Crux Magazine, and he is a contributing writer to [www.colossiansthreesixteen.com](http://www.colossiansthreesixteen.com).
- **Republican Party – T. Getterman** is currently Treasurer for the Travis County Republican Party and past Treasurer for Williamson County. He worked for Phil Graham for 16 years, and is a local business leader. He is a lay leader at Grace Covenant Church and teaches biblical studies at International Christian Church.

Kutz-Marks noted that University Christian Church, located just south of the University of Texas campus and across the street from Littlefield Fountain, has a history of engaging the University community in explorations of issues of present concern. The current forum is one of a series, he said, that seeks to share ethical perspectives and increase understanding of today's significant issues. One goal of the forums is to promote regard for the opinions of others through balanced respectful dialogue. Information about the forum and many aspects of the topic itself can be found at [www.uccforums.org](http://www.uccforums.org).