

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Re: 'Equal Rights, Not Special Rights'

Michael Heath's group, Equal Rights, Not Special Rights, is pushing their own people "back into the closet." Over the last few years, well-known Christians have stepped forward to admit to themselves, and everyone else, they are gay. That list includes award winning artists such as Ray Boltz, Vicky Beeching, Jennifer Knapp, and most recently, Everyday Sunday's Trey Pearson. Gay people are not just "those people," as Heath's group would like to believe, many are self-identified Christians, some of whom are trapped in the fringe theology Equal Rights, Not Special Rights, wants to impose on the general public.

Equal Rights, Not Special Rights proliferates dangerous ideologies that lead to mass killings in gay nightclubs and hate crimes. 20-40% of homeless youth are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, with nearly [90%](#) being forced out of their homes or run away because of family rejection due to their sexual orientations or identities. Some are forced into debunked conversion or reparative therapy, the attempt to change someone from gay to straight, and left severely scarred years later.

Michael Heath and Equal Rights, Not Special Rights continues to proliferate antiquated pseudoscience in an attempt to justify and validate their own religious beliefs, while alienating and disenfranchising people within their own organization.



Tim Rymel, M.Ed. is the author of *Going Gay, My Journey from Evangelical Christian Minister to Self-acceptance, Love, Life, and Meaning* (CK Publishing, 2014). Between 1991 and 1996, he was the former outreach director of [Love in Action](#), once the nation's oldest and most renowned ex-gay/conversion therapy organization in the world. He and LiA staff traveled the country proclaiming "freedom from homosexuality through Jesus Christ," appearing on radio and television shows, including Oprah Winfrey, Good Morning America and 20/20.

Rymel is a columnist for the Huffington Post, where he writes on the confluence of sexuality, religion and politics. He is also a member of the American Psychological Association, APA Division 15 Educational psychology, and the Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transsexual Issues. He is currently completing his third book, *Question the Box: Rethinking Everything When Faith and Reality Don't Make Sense* (2016).