

May 14, 2008

J.R. Miller, Director of High School Ministry
Riverview Church

Dear Mr. Miller:

On behalf of PETA and our more than 1.8 million members and supporters—as well as the growing number of vegetarian and vegan Christians—I am writing to request that Riverview Church change its upcoming plans to host a Mexican Fiesta that includes a pig roast and instead enjoy a cruelty-free vegetarian event. Upon reflection, I think that you will agree that choosing vegetarian foods over animal flesh is in accordance with Christ's mission of compassion and peace.

God's will is spelled out in the Bible's account of the Garden of Eden (Genesis 1) and in the visions of the prophets Isaiah, Amos, Micah, and others. In every instance, God's ideal is one in which all animals—including humans—are vegetarians. We haven't realized this goal yet, but shouldn't those who pray that God's "will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven" strive to live in accordance with these principles now?

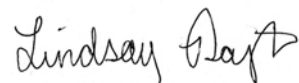
By hosting an event that revolves around the abuse of God's creatures, your church is giving its approval to abuse that is completely at odds with Christian values. As St. Francis of Assisi said, "All creatures are created from the same paternal heartbeat of God." Please follow in St. Francis' footsteps and teach your community that compassion must extend to all God's creatures.

Adopting a vegetarian diet is a Christian response to the unholy abuse of billions of animals every year by today's industrialized meat industry. On factory farms, baby chickens and piglets are mutilated without any painkillers. Chickens, turkeys, and pigs are routinely crammed into tiny cages or filthy sheds to maximize profits. After a life of suffering, farmed animals have their throats cut and are dismembered in slaughterhouses, often while still conscious. God designed each of these animals with the capacity to feel pain and have their own desire to be free and be with their families. Today's corporate animal agriculture denies them all of this. Please watch the video at Meat.org, and I'm sure you'll understand why we are so concerned.

Some ideas for delicious meat-free offerings include tacos made with Morningstar Farms veggie burger crumbles, fajitas made with Morningstar Farms Chik'n or "steak" strips, and bean burritos. By switching to a vegetarian menu, you will also be helping the health of your parishioners—vegetarians have lower rates of heart disease, cancer, obesity, and diabetes than meat-eaters.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Lindsay Rajt
Factory Farming Campaigns



PETA

PEOPLE FOR THE ETHICAL
TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

501 FRONT ST.
NORFOLK, VA 23510
757-622-PETA
757-622-0457 (FAX)

PETA.org
Info@peta.org

AN INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED
TO PROTECTING
THE RIGHTS OF ALL ANIMALS