Dear Ms Crane and Mr. Rutledge:

I write to follow up on our previous conversations, in which we have agreed that TAFM and the Grosse Pointe Unitarian Church will cosponsor a debate on affirmative action, to be held at the church on Sunday, October 22 at noon.

This e-mail provides information about the role of the cosponsors, and what TAFM will provide.

As you know, I am the Program Director for Toward A Fair Michigan. We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational organization, which seeks to provide a civic forum for Michigan's citizens to learn about and discuss affirmative action, in anticipation of the November 2006 ballot initiative. Our primary activity is to set up debates in which we provide both a pro and a con speaker. Our speakers bureau includes experts in the legal and social aspects of affirmative action. Most of the speakers are university professors, although a few bring other backgrounds and expertise most often from the legal field.

You can learn more about TAFM at our website: www.towardafairmichigan.org. I invite you especially to take a look at the video ("Where Do You Stand?") and the "Ask the Experts" pages of the website; there you will have the chance to see, hear, and read some of the substantive and thoughtful discussion of affirmative action that our speakers and experts have provided. Copies of some of the debate remarks and an audio of one actual debate are also available.

During the 2005-06 academic year, TAFM cosponsored 12 debates, held at locations throughout Michigan (often on college or university campuses) and with a wide range of cosponsoring organizations such as Black Student Associations, College Democrats, College Republicans, and offices for Multicultural Affairs. You can see the list of events, cosponsors, and read audience feedback about the debates at this URL: http://www.towardafairmichigan.org/events.html. The comments demonstrate that audiences have valued the substantive, principled, and even-handed approach that our speakers bring to the debates. The debaters speak on their own behalf, and not on behalf of TAFM.

Guidelines with regard to cosponsors, debate format and moderator are also available on the website at these links: http://towardafairmichigan.org/CoSponsorGuidelines.html and http://towardafairmichigan.org/DebateGuidelines.html .

Your main responsibilites as a cosponsor will be: 1) to provide the site for the debate (and work with me to provide sound system, microphones, etc.) and 2) to help publicize the event to your members and to the local community. I will prepare publicity materials for you to use, and I attach to this e-mail sample materials from some of our debates last year.

I will pay for placing display ads in local papers (as affordable) and I will prepare a flyer that you may photocopy and send where you like. I will also prepare a press release. You will, of course, have the chance to review all these materials in advance.

Your advice on where to send press releases and so forth would be invaluable. I believe that Ms Crane has already offered to send me contact information for the *Grosse Pointe News*, the *Macomb Sentinel*, and other local papers.

TAFM covers almost all the costs of the debate – including providing an honorarium to each speaker, covering their travel costs, and covering most of the publicity costs.

It is my understanding that the church will provide a light lunch for its members, which will take place immediately after the end of the morning worship service and prior to the start of the debate.

Ms Crane and I have discussed the proposed physical layout and how to provide an adequate sound system. This will need some work, and we will explore ways to obtain at least one additional microphone.

I have already secured one speaker (the person who will speak against affirmative action preferences – Dr. William B. Allen of MSU [and my husband]). I have issued invitations to two "pro" affirmative action speakers – the first was not available on this date, and I await a response from the second person on my list. I expect to have this lined up soon.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have; please feel free to call me at 517-749-6938. I look forward to working with you on this debate.

Sincerely yours,

Carol Allen
TAFM Program Director