



# The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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Rev. Brian C. Roberts, MDiv, MBA, Pastor

April 30, 1999

The Honorable Christine Todd Whitman  
Governor of the State of New Jersey  
Office of the Governor  
CN001  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Whitman,

I am writing to share my excitement about a program that is changing the lives of young people in Pleasantville. This dynamic program has the potential to make a significant difference in children and schools throughout Atlantic County and the across New Jersey.

I am referring to the **Future Leaders Foundation** under the leadership of Master Donald Straga. The program is designed to provide martial arts training which entails discipline, self confidence and strengthening of the body, mind and spirit.

I have witnessed first hand as youngsters have gone from lacking focus, eyes downcast, and disrespectful of themselves and their teachers to children eager to train, proud of what they are accomplishing, with clear bright eyes and wide smiles. While I knew that this experience would help these young people I have been overwhelmed by the scope of the transformation.

I have trained at the Tang Soo Do Karate Academy for nearly four years. I sought out this training to further integrate mind, body and spirit. I have at times assisted in Future Leaders Foundation classes and have witnessed first hand what caring direction, setting goals, providing training and support can do.

It is difficult to describe in words the impact of this program. The most powerful way to understand the program is to witness a class, speak with Master Straga, teachers and students. I would like to add my invitation to others asking you to make time in your busy schedule for an uplifting visit. This is a program that does not just work in theory it is working in the lives of elementary school students in a southern New Jersey City.

Thank you for considering this invitation and for the leadership you provide our great state.

Sincerely,

Brian C. Roberts  
Pastor