

**In response to our one-hour presentation from our apartment via Skype video to the Trinity College Chapel. We were the first married couple in a Sunday evening series on marriage given by some couples married in the college chapel. (In 2009 we were the 800<sup>th</sup> couple married there, the first same-sex couple.) Although we were a bit apprehensive, because of the half-century difference in age between ourselves and the students, more than a single generational gap, all seemed to go very well. All participants (women, men, straight, gay, etc.) spoke respectfully and in good faith.**

**March 13, 2011 9:11 p.m.**

**Dear Dick and Bob,**

**Thank you so much for a wonderful program tonight. The student response to you, to your presentation, and to the effort on the part of the chaplaincy to bring this message to students was strong and positive. You might not have been able to see this, but there were about 70 people in front of you this evening—and this during an academic crunch time. The students were all thoughtful in the responses to the program, and I can say that several found it deeply meaningful. The comments at the door were not the usual “nice sermon” remarks, but moments of more meaningful exchange. I can’t say enough thanks to you both for your willingness, your availability, and your time for this program. It is a true gift to the chapel and to the students. I am very grateful.**

**I am grateful for this program tonight as I am grateful for all the gifts you make to the chapel, including another scandalously generous monetary gift that I just learned about. Your generosity is humiliating, really. Somehow doesn’t seem right that two people without a “home” congregation right now can be so abundantly present and giving so fully to this one. There’s much to play with here in terms of what is virtual, what is remote, and what is the really real, huh? It is clearly the hand and heart of God making you so fully present to us and your gifts so meaningfully received. I can only hope and trust that in giving, as the famous prayer goes, you are also receiving, somehow, some of the abundant love that is coming through to us here.**

**Thank you for your ministry among this congregation. You know this is always a home for you, and that you are very much present and a beloved part of this congregation and community. If you care to join us via Skype again sometime, please know that you are welcome. We could prop up a laptop on a prayer desk in the choir for you to see and participate in the service.**

**With much gratitude and great affection,  
Allison**

*Allison Read  
Chaplain of the College  
Trinity College  
300 Summit Street  
Hartford, CT 06106  
(860) 297-2013  
allison.read@trincoll.edu*