

To the editors (Sarasota, FL *Herald-Tribune*):

In recent months in Kansas and in Pennsylvania groups opposed to evolution have attempted to take over school boards and introduce "intelligent design" into public school class rooms. Either voters or court decisions have rejected these efforts. But proponents unfortunately persist in their efforts claiming that evolution, which Charles Darwin and successive generations of scientists have demonstrated to be reliable science, is only a "theory" and incompatible with the Bible and religious views of creation as they interpret them.

In response to such views, on Sunday, February 12, hundreds of Christian churches of many denominations across the country will meet to discuss the compatibility of religion and science. They will do so by celebrating "Evolution Sunday." This is designed to coincide with the 197th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birth.

Dr. Michael Zimmerman of the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh initiated this movement through a Clergy Letter Project inviting recipients to engage their congregations through sermons and/or discussion groups which will emphasize that thoughtful, progressive religion and careful scientific study are compatible. He has received an outpouring of sermons and other responses expressing enthusiastic support for this project. Copies of the clergy letter have been sent to school boards across the country urging them "to preserve the integrity of the science curriculum by affirming the teaching of the theory of evolution," thereby asking that "science remain science and religion remain religion, two very different, but complementary, forms of truth."

This is a grassroots movement from religious leaders to reclaim religion from those who would use it for narrow, sectarian purposes.

For more information contact [mz@uwosh.edu](mailto:mz@uwosh.edu) or go to the web page: [www.uwosh.edu/colleges/cols/rel\\_evol\\_sun.htm](http://www.uwosh.edu/colleges/cols/rel_evol_sun.htm)

Robert H. Bryant, Apt. N308, 700 John Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236; tel. 941-361-7191