

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 8, 2008
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Faith Leaders from Across State to Speak Out Against Proposition 8

SACRAMENTO – Clergy and faith leaders from across California will hold interfaith gatherings this weekend to stand against Proposition 8. People of faith are coming together and speaking out. They reject the notion that all people of faith want to take away their neighbor's right to marry the person they love. They reject the idea of using California's Constitution to exclude gay people from the rights that all Californians enjoy. Events will be held on Saturday in Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Diego, Redlands, Sacramento and San Francisco. On Sunday, interfaith services will be held in Costa Mesa, Santa Rosa and San Jose.

These gatherings of people of faith against Prop 8 serve as a response to a Saturday San Diego rally organized by supporters of the ballot measure.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1st

LOS ANGELES

WHAT: "Faith for Equality: A Multi-Faith No on Prop. 8 Celebration"
WHO: Father Geoff Farrow
Star Trek actor George Takei
WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, at 12:00 pm PST
WHERE: St. John's Cathedral, 514 W. Adams, Los Angeles, CA

LONG BEACH

WHAT: "Living Equally, Loving Equally; Interfaith Service Celebrating Love and Commitment for All Couples"
WHO: speakers
WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, at 2:00 pm PST
WHERE: First Congregational Church, 241 Cedar Ave. Long Beach, CA

SAN DIEGO

WHAT: Interfaith service and press conference
Followed by phonebanking at No on 8 headquarters in San Diego.
WHO: speakers
WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, at 10:00 am PST
WHERE: St. Paul's Cathedral, 2728 6th Ave, San Diego, CA

SACRAMENTO

WHAT: “Sing Out the Vote & Take to the Streets: An Interfaith No on 8 Celebration”
WHO: speakers
WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, at 12:00 pm PST
WHERE: Central United Methodist Church, 5265 H St., Sacramento, CA

SAN FRANCISCO

WHAT: “Standing on the Side of Love: An Interfaith No on 8 Celebration & Rally”
WHO: speakers
WHEN: Saturday, Nov. 1, 2008, at 11:00 am PST
WHERE: Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, 330 Ellis St., San Francisco, CA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd

COSTA MESA

WHAT: Interfaith vigil, followed by phone banking against Prop 8
WHO: speakers
WHEN: Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008, at 4:00 pm PST
WHERE: Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church, 1259 Victoria Street, Costa Mesa,

SANTA ROSA

WHAT: “Live Equally, Love Equally: Interfaith Service in Support of Marriage Equality”
WHO: speakers
WHEN: Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008, at 7:00 pm PST
WHERE: Center for Spiritual Living, 2075 Occidental Road, Santa Rosa, CA

SAN JOSE

WHAT: Day of the Dead Altar with No on 8 theme
WHO: speakers
WHEN: Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008, at ??:00 am PST
WHERE: First Unitarian Church of San Jose, 160 N. Third St., San Jose, CA

California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

110 South Euclid, Pasadena, CA 91101 (626) 568-7300

California-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

1276 Halyard Dr, West Sacramento, CA 95691 (916) 374-1500

Press Release

October 30, 2008

Sacramento, CA – On November 2, United Methodist bishops in California went on record in support of civil rights for same-sex couples.

A resolution passed in June 2008 states, "...the 2008 Session of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church OPPOSES the California Marriage Protection Amendment, and calls upon all United Methodists, in favor of defeat of this act to work with all their might for its defeat..."

The reason given was, "...this amendment would be a profound misuse of our state constitution for the purpose of restricting the civil rights of one group of citizens, such an amendment would be in direct contradiction of the principles and spirit of the United Methodist Church..."

California-Nevada Bishop Warner H. Brown Jr. stated, "Marriage is very important to people of faith and each faith tradition brings its own values to the understanding of marriage. But marriage is not the exclusive province of the religious. Civil marriages have long been an important part of our laws. Religious communities will not be impacted if Proposition 8 is defeated by California voters. The freedom to practice our particular religious convictions will not be constrained. Arguments to the contrary regarding tax-exempt status and education are simply not true."

California-Pacific Bishop Mary Ann Swenson said, "The United Methodist Church is clear that every person is of sacred worth. Our official policy specifically states, that 'certain basic human rights and civil liberties are due all persons. We are committed to supporting those rights and liberties for homosexual persons.'

"While people of faith can disagree on a variety of contemporary issues," said Rev. Scott Imler, Chair of the Cal-Pacific Committee on Welcoming, "we are all guided by three imperatives: love, truth, and hospitality. Californians know that Proposition 8 misses the mark by all three measures and that undermining one household to uphold another is unnecessary, unfair, and wrong."

Rev. Kimberly Willis, Chair of the California-Nevada Conference Committee on Reconciliation said, "The real issue is whether a particular religious perspective should be allowed to tell the entire state what to do in the public sphere. Not all Californians are religious. There are faithful religious people who are not Christian. This is an issue of civil rights not religious dogma. More than 11,000 same-sex couples are now married in California. Churches and schools continue to operate by the same rules they always have. It is unjust and wrong to take away marriage rights from same-sex couples who have been legally married for the last four months. Discrimination has no place in our state constitution."

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