



The United Methodist Church  
San Francisco Area California-Nevada Conference

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October 23, 2008

As we near the general election, I have become deeply concerned about the arguments being raised by some voices in support of Proposition 8. 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 religions. 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.

United Methodists hold strong and diverse opinions regarding same-sex marriage. Some believe same sex-marriage should be endorsed right now. Others believe that we need to wait for the endorsement of the broader church through our General Conference. It is a challenging and complex issue. But as United Methodists we support that same-sex couples receive the same treatment under the law as other California citizens.

This belief is grounded in our common conviction that homosexual persons are individuals of sacred worth. This sacred worth calls for equal and just protection under the law. Nothing more. Nothing less. It is our hope that the United Methodist Church be a place where all people are welcome to grow in their relationship with God, self and others. It is in this place of community that we learn and celebrate that God's unending grace is available to all.

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