



bay area coalition of welcoming congregations

Regional Gatherings

"The Wellspring of Life"



*Psalms 4:23*

Faith communities are intended to help people to guard their hearts so they will be "wellsprings of life", not filled with lies, deception, and lacking integrity. The CWC's encourage all people, especially LGBTQI individuals, to live in authenticity that overflows to the lives of others.

**Join the conversation with Progressive Faith Communities as we strategize around healing and life-giving responses to the CA Supreme Court's decision of Proposition 8.**

**When and Where?**

Please plan on joining us at one of the following gatherings around the Bay and invite others. If you miss the gathering closest to you, come to one of the others. Each gathering will be held from **7:00 pm to 8:30 pm** (doors open at 6:30 with refreshments) on:

*Northeast Bay*

**Tuesday, April 28**

Peace Lutheran Church  
3201 Camino Tassajara  
Danville, CA 94506

*South Bay*

**Tuesday, May 5**

Ladera Community Church UCC  
3300 Alpine Road,  
Portola Valley, CA 94028

*East Bay*

**Thursday, May 7**

Epworth United Methodist Church  
1953 Hopkins Street  
Berkeley, CA 94707

*San Francisco*

**Tuesday, May 12**

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
290 Dolores Street  
San Francisco, CA 94103

*North Bay*

**Thursday, May 14**

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael  
1510 Fifth Avenue (at "E")  
San Rafael, CA 94901

### Who?

The Coalition of Welcoming Congregations (CWC) is a project of **The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry**. Our goal is to create a strong network of religious leaders, religious congregations/communities, and individuals of faith in the nine-county Bay Area, who are highly motivated to act as agents of positive social change.

### What?

We have selected points around the Bay Area where our member congregations are clustered. The purpose of these gatherings is to help guide member congregations to be prepared to act in communities as a strong voice around equality following the CA Court decision.

### Why?

The progressive faith voice often took a back seat to more conservative points of view on the Marriage Equality issue. Many of our congregations wanted to take a more active role in the "No on 8" campaign, but did not know how or were discouraged from becoming involved (from influences within and outside the congregation). CWC, along with partnered organizations, wants to take leadership and help inspire faith communities to create new ways of being to marriage and family equality and justice.

We will focus also on coalition building as well as mobilizing congregations to be prepared with a plan of action following the announcement of the court decision. This will not be another "Town Hall" forum. It is designed to be a strategy session. Proposed strategy ideas are:

- Announcing we will still conduct weddings for same-sex couples.
- Taking a weekend in June to focus on the theological, social, and emotional effects of the court decision.
- Providing liturgy that focus on Marriage and Family Equality.
- Clergy staff making themselves available for people needing to process the court decision from a faith perspective.
- Provide a faith presence at the "Meet in the Middle" rally in Fresno, CA the Saturday following the Supreme Court decision. For more information, visit <http://www.meetinthemiddle4equality.com/>

### Co-Sponsoring Organizations:



*Peace Lutheran Church  
Ladera Community Church UCC  
Epworth United Methodist Church  
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav  
First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael*

For more information or questions, please contact

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