

# News

## From Redlands United Church of Christ

168 Bellevue Avenue, Redlands, CA

### For Immediate Release

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### Redlands Church Encourages Marriage Equality

Redlands' United Church of Christ will welcome and treat all couples equally, who request a wedding at the church, since the California Supreme Court recently ruled that same-sex couples are eligible for a state-recognized marriage.

Pastor Sharon Graff asked the church's governing board to give its approval to this policy, which it did at its monthly meeting on Tuesday June 10, one week before county clerks in California will begin issuing marriage licenses that include same-sex couples.

Church Board President Loring Fiske-Phillips states, "We rejoice that God is still speaking about marriage! The national General Synod of the United Church of Christ in 2005 endorsed marriage equality rights for all couples regardless of gender, and our local church is now happy to be able to conduct marriage ceremonies for same-sex couples, since the California Supreme Court has made this possible. Our Redlands church is an open and affirming, inclusive congregation, and in recent years we have celebrated blessings of the covenant relationships of same-sex couples at our church. Now all couples can enjoy the dignity and joy of a legally-recognized marriage."

Following is the text of the adopted marriage equality resolution:

**WHEREAS**, Holy Scripture reveals that everyone is created in God's image, and that God embraces all people as equally precious, and

**WHEREAS**, Redlands United Church of Christ is an open and affirming community of faith, that values all people as the family of God, and welcomes everyone into the full life and ministry of the Church, and

**WHEREAS**, Redlands United Church of Christ currently celebrates and blesses the covenant relationships of couples, whether gay or straight, honoring the commitment of two persons to each other, but until now has not performed the state-recognized rite of marriage for same-sex couples, and

**WHEREAS**, on May 15, 2008, the California Supreme Court issued its decision, holding that marriage is a "basic civil right of personal autonomy and liberty ... to which all persons are entitled without regard to their sexual orientation," and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the Supreme Court's decision, on June 17, 2008, county offices throughout the State of California will begin to issue licenses that recognize the legality of same-sex marriages,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pastor and Board do declare that, beginning June 17, 2008, Redlands United Church of Christ will happily welcome and treat all couples equally, who present themselves for the rite of marriage.