



**For Immediate Release**

Eden United Church of Christ  
Hayward, California

***Perry v Schwarzenegger is Good News***

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Chief U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker's August 4, 2010 decision in favor of marriage equality is good news for gay and lesbian Californians, and good news for everyone who affirms that the U.S. Constitution guarantees equal protection to ALL Americans.

As a Christian pastor and as a person who has been married for 18 years, I believe that Judge Walker's ruling is also an example of God's good news unfolding in our midst.

My congregation, Eden United Church of Christ, is 145 years old and for over 15 years has expressly welcomed gay and lesbian members into the life and leadership of our community.

Eden's leaders (like many other progressive faith leaders) have taken stands in support of marriage equality for same-gender couples. Several lesbian and gay couples have been married on our church campus. My spouse, Stephanie Spencer, and I were among that number. We celebrated our civil marriage on our anniversary, October 11, 2008.

Through each of these Christian liturgies, God was glorified and our families and our congregation were strengthened.

The Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring, Senior Minister  
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