



You're
Welcome
Here.

September 14, 2022

Castro Valley Unified School District
Board of Trustees
4400 Alma Avenue
Castro Valley, CA 94546

Dear Trustees:

Eden United Church of Christ is a Protestant congregation that has been serving the Eden area, including Castro Valley, since 1865. We proudly identify as an LGBT Open & Affirming Congregation, and as a Sanctuary Congregation that welcomes and accompanies newcomers through the immigration and cultural integration processes.

We commend the Castro Valley Unified School District (CVUSD) Board of Trustees for adopting, in February 2022, a plan to paint the progress PRIDE flag in a prominent location on all 15 of the district's school sites. We also commend the CVUSD's administration and school site leaders for swiftly implementing this plan, and thereby reaffirming our motto--All means all!

As people of faith, we strive to extend Christ's hospitality to others and provide sanctuary to the most vulnerable, so the news that the CVUSD has again become the subject of homophobic and transphobic social media campaigns is deeply troubling to us. These hateful actions do not reflect the teachings of Christ, and by in large, they do not represent the views of our school community. We denounce these campaigns as unfaithful and un-American, and we call on those who participate in them to cease and desist.

Our hearts go out to all LGBT students, family members, employees, trustees, and residents in the CVUSD, and the rainbow families of which you and we are a part. We see you. We respect you. We are with you.

God bless you, keep you safe, and give you strength in these challenging times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Arlene K. Nehring".

Rev. Dr. Arlene K. Nehring
Senior Minister

DocuSigned by:
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer Petrovec".
912466807197418
Jennifer Petrovec
Moderator of the Church

The Rev. Dr. Arlene Nehring