



Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ
Nurturing local church vitality and the covenant among our churches

www.macucc.org

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The ONA Task Force

November 12, 2008

The Rev. Dr. Mary Susan Gast, Conference Minister
The Northern California Nevada Conference, UCC
21425 Birch Street
Hayward CA 94541-2131

Dear Rev. Dr. Gast and Friends in the Northern California Nevada Conference,

We reach out to you as our family in Christ. We know you are devastated by the outcome of the Prop 8 vote. We extend to you and your many congregations our prayers and gratitude in this time of concern and disappointment. You have stood tall and worked faithfully in the campaign to keep marriage equality. We stand in solidarity with you against the wide-ranging misunderstandings and misinterpretations of God's message that had a hand in creating this outcome.

We in Massachusetts know first-hand about the importance and the true blessings of marriage rights for same gender couples. We pray that the outcome in California somehow can be reversed. We pray for the couples who are uncertain of their futures. We pray for strength for all concerned as this struggle for human rights continues.

Blessings,

The Massachusetts Conference Open and Affirming (ONA) Task Force
Kathie Carpenter, Chair

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Wells
Associate Conference Minister

On behalf of our 87 Open and Affirming Churches
and our ONA Settings:
The MA Conference - UCC
The Andover Newton Theological School
The Harvard Divinity School

*(The same text was sent to the Rev. Dr. Jane Fisler Hoffman, Interim Conference Minister
The Southern California Nevada Conference, UCC)*

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