



Drawing on the **POWER** of FAITH to win full **EQUALITY**

The Leadership Circle

TAKING BACK THE POWER OF RELIGION

Extremists have hijacked the rhetoric and perception of religion. They have used faith as a weapon to deny lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) people the basic legal freedom of marriage equality. And now, they are gearing up to spread misinformation about the "FAIR Education Act." That law will ensure inclusion of information about LGBT contributing figures in California classrooms in age-appropriate ways. They will raise millions, and will again hijack religious perception to try to overturn this law. Here in California, it's time to take back the power of religion. It's time to harness faith as a force for justice. It's time to reclaim the moral authority in the public sphere and sway voters in the middle. The statewide organization that is taking back the power of religion is California Faith for Equality.

California Faith for Equality is a network of clergy, lay leaders and congregations from diverse faith traditions. We are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender people, and straight allies. We are Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Mormon, and Buddhist, and we practice many other traditions--even no tradition at all. We understand the power of faith in the fight for equality and we are committed to ensuring that faith is a force that propels LGBT people toward full equality under the law.

THE KEY TO WINNING LGBT EQUALITY - MOBILIZING A FAITH-BASED FORCE

Thousands of California faith leaders support full LGBT equality. California Faith for Equality has built a network of over 6,000 leaders and communities across our state. Our network, the only of its kind that is statewide, includes not only individual clergy and lay leaders, but also statewide denominational bodies, congregations and faith-based organizations.

We are ready to organize them into a force that taps the power of the sacred, to elevate them above the religious extremists in the media, and to reach persuadable Californians with a message of inclusion and justice from the people they respect most: their clergy and faith leaders.

To achieve this ambitious vision, California Faith for Equality is expanding financial support from our Leadership Circle, seeking to raise a total of \$100,000. We cordially invite you to join our Leadership Circle, with your gift of \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$20,000 or more.

FOUR BOLD STATEWIDE INITIATIVES FOR LGBT EQUALITY

1

Train Faith Leaders as Activists by training leaders of congregations to integrate LGBT equality into their regular life and celebrations, to reach undecided members of their faith communities with a message of justice for LGBT people, and to mobilize their members toward winning LGBT legal rights.

Budget: \$25,000 (for trainings in three regions throughout the state)

2

Organize Faith Leaders Regionally into a Statewide Force for LGBT Justice by engaging our network of 6,000 faith leaders in regional organizing that will spur and support regular actions: community service projects, safe space dialogues with moderates, equality house parties, and movie screenings.

Budget: \$100,000 (for four regional organizers and regular training/support throughout the year)

3

Increase the Media Visibility of Pro-LGBT Faith Leaders by expanding our network of faith newsmakers, training them as spokespeople for national, local, and ethnic media, and as a rapid-respond team to counter religious extremists. We will integrate online organizing using the blogosphere, social networking, YouTube, and our members' vast network of websites.

Budget: \$50,000 (for regular regional trainings and development/dissemination of materials)

4

Continue to expand and develop our unique library of films, curricula, study guides and analysis that will assist congregations of all faith traditions to engage in respectful and honorable dialogue that will lead to acceptance and equality for all of God's people.

Budget: \$25,000 (for regular regional trainings and development/dissemination of materials)



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CALIFORNIA FAITH FOR EQUALITY HAS THE TRACK RECORD

Our initiatives are ambitious. But with your support California Faith for Equality will succeed, just as we've achieved critical milestones for LGBT equality in the past three years:

- **Succeeding in Court.** When the case that kicked off the summer of lesbian and gay weddings went before California's Supreme Court in early 2008, the Chief Justice George mentioned only one amicus brief during oral arguments. California Faith for Equality organized the 400 faith leaders who signed that brief, filed in the name of CA Council of Churches.
- **Reaching the Moveable Middle.** Our network engages persuadable Californians in congregations throughout the state. Here's one example of many: In a moderate-to-conservative, predominantly Asian and Pacific Islander Baptist church that includes an "ex-gay" ministry just outside of Los Angeles, the pastor, with the support of California Faith for Equality, held a Saturday evening dialogue on marriage equality that drew a crowd of 300- three times the number of expected attendees.
- **Earning Respect Widely.** California Faith for Equality is the only organization working successfully statewide at the intersection of religion and LGBT equality. National and statewide organizations, such as Human Rights Campaign and Equality California, recognize us as a cutting edge model of organizing that is essential to winning full equality not only in California, but also in other states.

THE LEADERSHIP CIRCLE OF CALIFORNIA FAITH FOR EQUALITY

We invite you to be a leader in mobilizing the power of religion to achieve LGBT equality, by making a contribution of \$1,200, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$20,000 or more. With your gift of \$1,200 (that can be made in easy payments of \$100 per month) or more, you will receive special benefits:

- Insider briefings and regular communications from California Faith for Equality's staff
- Invitations to special events
- Opportunities to participate in press conferences and media actions
- Special recognition of your generosity (with your permission) in California Faith for Equality's email newsletter and on our web site.

The most important benefits you will receive are intangible. Your support makes you a leader in taking back the power of religion and by reaching the people of faith who are crucial to restoring marriage equality.

California Faith for Equality is a 501c3 organization supported by private funding and contributions. Our IRS Tax Exempt number is 27-1356789.

CALIFORNIA FAITH
FOR EQUALITY

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