

# Almaden Hills United Methodist Church

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Bishop Warner H. Brown  
California Nevada Annual Conference  
P.O. Box 980250  
West Sacramento, CA 95798-0250

May 30, 2012

Dear Bishop Brown,

Greetings, from the congregation at Almaden Hills United Methodist Church in San Jose, California.

Our circuit recently hosted a visit of three students from Pacific School of Religion who attended General Conference as part of a class they were taking. They were very engaging, shared a lot of information and their reflections. They were helpful in sharing process and the global context. Of course, the students shared our common grief around keeping the language in the discipline that continues to isolate our LGBT community.

Almaden Hills is a reconciling church and has been for several years. When word came down regarding the vote on homosexuality, there were some in the congregation who were not surprised, but there were others who were shocked and angry, having been relatively new to the United Methodist Church.

During a meeting of the congregation, some expressed that the vote against inclusion, was an act of evil. The pain goes very deep. Our congregation is sending a letter to the editors of local papers and discussing other actions we can take to let the LGBT community and their family and friends know they, are welcome and safe at AHUMC.

We wait to hear a word from you, Bishop. Those who know your history, have worked with you and saw you stand beside Bishop Talbert after the vote, believe we know where you stand. But our congregations, *this congregation*, need to hear that word from you. They, I need to hear a word from the church that affirms their understanding and belief in a loving God and a church that will transform the world into the full expression of Christ's inclusive love.

May God continue to bless you in your work in His name.

Your servant in Christ,

Jane E. Schlager, Pastor

Copy: The Rev. Kristie Olah, ECR District Superintendent