



# BETH AM

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October 11, 2006

Committee on Jewish Laws and Standards  
The Rabbinical Assembly  
c/o The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism  
Rapaport House  
155 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10010-6802

***Re: Position on Gay and Lesbian Jews Within the Conservative Movement***

To the Committee on Jewish Laws and Standards:

In light of the ongoing discussion by the Committee on Jewish Laws and Standards (CJLS) regarding the status of gay and lesbian Jews within the Conservative Movement, our synagogue, Beth Am, feels compelled to share its support for the complete inclusion of gays and lesbians within the congregation, and to seek guidance from the Movement as to how gay and lesbian Jews are to be included in all of our Jewish institutions.

Beth Am, which is affiliated with the Conservative Movement, is welcoming and accepting of its gay and lesbian members and attempts, within the Movement's proscriptions, to achieve the full normalization of homosexual Jews within our community. This, we believe, is our ethical obligation and desire.

As a congregation we are eager to see full normalization of gay and lesbian Jews in the Conservative Movement to ensure that they are treated equally in every respect. A range of halakhic positions regarding homosexuality in our Movement are under discussion in your committee. The most inclusive of these papers expresses our views. To the extent that proscriptions regarding homosexuality remain in effect, even after December's vote, we ask for specific instruction from the CJLS or other arm of the Movement for how the longstanding goal of welcoming gay and lesbian Jews might be achieved.

The moral imperative to achieve inclusion of homosexual Jews within every Jewish community and institution is, to us, unambiguous. The halakhic challenge of arriving at this goal is the domain of the CJLS. We simply ask that you hear our call for the moral imperative and give us guidance on the attainment of that goal.

Respectfully submitted,

The Board of Trustees  
Beth Am Synagogue