



# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **The Separation of Church and State from the Perspectives of Judaism, Islam and Christianity**

SANTA ANA, CA (June 2, 2006) –The Orange County Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State is proud to sponsor an interfaith forum featuring Rabbi Stephen Julius Stein, Sheikh Yassir Fazaqa and Reverend Jerald Stinson. The event will be on **July 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3:00 p.m.** at Temple Bat Yahm, 1101 Camelback Street, Newport Beach. The forum will begin with each panelist presenting his perspective which will be followed by questions from the moderator and finally audience Q & A.

**Rabbi Stein** was ordained in 2003 from Hebrew Union College. Prior to the rabbinate, he enjoyed a rewarding twenty-year career as a conductor. He currently serves as co-chair of the Central Conference of American Rabbis Gay and Lesbian Rabbinic Network and vice-president of the Wilshire Center Interfaith Council.

**Sheikh Fazaqa** received his degree in Islamic Studies from the Imam Saud University Institute of Islamic and Arabic Sciences in Virginia and a Masters degree in psychotherapy from California State Long Beach. He is the Imam at the Orange County Islamic Foundation in Mission Viejo where he conducts a lecture series on Islamic topics in Arabic as well as a youth program on Quran and Life Challenges.

**Reverend Stinson** graduated from the Divinity School at Harvard University and is the Senior Minister of the First Congregational Church of Long Beach. A former United Church of Christ missionary in southern Africa, he has served as Director of Human Services for the City of Newton, Massachusetts; as minister of the Community Church in Almira, Washington; and as minister of Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Carlsbad, California.

Founded in 1947, Americans United for Separation of Church and State ([www.au.org](http://www.au.org)) is a non-profit religious liberty watchdog organization dedicated to preserving the Constitutional rights of religious freedom.

There is no charge for meeting attendance and refreshments will be served. For additional information regarding the July 16<sup>th</sup> event and/or the AU-OC Chapter, please contact:

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