

Warren foes say time to move on

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Let's put our differences aside and try to work together.

That was the message from gay rights and pro-choice activists who opposed President Obama's choice of the Rev. Rick Warren to deliver the inaugural invocation Tuesday.

While they said they disagree with Warren - who is against gay marriage and abortion - they want to focus on the future.

"We don't think he was the right choice; however, it's time for us to move on - it's time to look forward," said Darlene Nipper, deputy executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

Warren, 64, is the founder and senior pastor of the Saddleback Church, an evangelical megachurch in Lake Forest, Calif., but he is best-known as the best-selling author of "The Purpose Driven Life."

Warren received a lukewarm reception as he took the stage. There were a few boos. But he was applauded when he mentioned Obama's place in history.

"We are so grateful to live in this land, a land of unequalled possibility, where a son of an African immigrant can rise to the highest level of our leadership," Warren said.

Warren mentioned Jesus by name - in four languages - and then recited the Lord's Prayer.

Warren declined all requests for interviews yesterday, saying he would "let his prayer speak for itself."

Stonewall Democrats spokesman John Marble said while the group disagrees with Warren's beliefs, the inauguration is a chance to work together.

"Maybe there are things with Rev. Warren that we can work on and we're going to continue to disagree, but I think a majority of gay Americans are really looking at this as an opportunity to really move forward," Marble said. "It'd be unfortunate if we didn't focus on that."