DC CLERGY UNITED FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Declaration of Religious Support for Marriage Equality

We are District of Columbia clergy and religious leaders of many faiths, races, ethnicities, and sexual orientations. We represent religious institutions in every ward in the District. We have worked together over many years for peace and justice and now join our voices again to speak a faithful word for freedom and equality.

We declare that our faith calls us to affirm marriage equality for loving same-sex couples.

Our religious traditions and scriptures teach us that wherever love is present, God is also present. One of God's greatest gifts to us is our human capacity to love one another. The ability of two people to enter into relationships and form families of love and care is one expression of this gift. It is holy and good. We therefore affirm the right of loving same-gender couples to enter into such relationships on an equal basis with loving heterosexual couples.

We recognize that there are principled differences on this issue within the religious community. We affirm that the state should not require any religious group to officiate at, or bless, same-gender marriages. However, the state also should not favor the convictions of one religious group over another by denying individuals their fundamental civil right to marry whom they love.

Recognizing that there is heartfelt disagreement on this issue, we call on all people of the District of Columbia to engage in a respectful and loving dialogue on marriage equality. As religious leaders, we commit ourselves to such a dialogue and encourage our colleagues on all sides of this issue to do the same.

God is love and love is for everyone. In this spirit we raise our voices in the struggle for the right and freedom to marry.
**Steering Committee**

The Rev. Amy Butler, Calvary Baptist Church
The Rev. Karen Brau, Luther Place Church
The Rev. Kendal Brown, City of Refuge Church of Greater Washington
The Rev. Mari E. Castellanos, United Church of Christ
The Rev. Rainey Cheeks, Inner Light Ministries
The Rev. Graylan Hagler, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ
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The Rev. Cedric Harmon, City of Refuge of Greater Washington
The Rev. Nathan Harris, Lincoln Temple United Church of Christ
The Rev. Ronald E. Hopson, First Congregational United Church of Christ
The Rev. Steve Huber, The Washington National Cathedral
Canon Missioner Patricia Riley Johnson, Washington National Cathedral
The Rev. Jeff Krehbiel, Church of the Pilgrims
The Rev. Luis Leon, St Johns Church, Lafayette Square
The Rev. Dyan Abena McCray, Unity Fellowship Church
Rabbi Toby H. Manewith, Congregation Bet Mishpacha
The Rev. Alton B. Pollard, Howard University School of Divinity
The Rev. Rosetta Ross, Howard University School of Divinity
The Rev. Louis Shockley, Jr., Asbury United Methodist Church
The Rev. Dean Snyder, Foundry United Methodist Church
The Rev. Christine Y. Wiley, Covenant Baptist Church
The Rev. Dennis W. Wiley, Covenant Baptist Church

**Co-Signers**

Imam Daayiee Abdullah, Al-Fatiha Foundation
The Rev. Paul Abernathy, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill
The Rev. Wm. D. Aldridge, Jr, Dumbarton United Methodist Church
The Rev. Scott W. Alexander, River Road Unitarian Universalists
Congregation
The Rev. Mary Andreolli, Alliance of Baptists
The Rev. Charlie Arehart, MCC of DC
Elder Wallace Babington, retired, Washington, DC
The Rev. Steven C. Baines, National City Christian Church
The Rev. Eric Bebber, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
The Rev. Elizabeth F. Bebber, Baptist minister
The Rev. John Beddingfield, All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church
The Rev. Alice Ogden Bellis, Howard University School of Divinity
Min. Eunesa Benoman, Covenant Baptist Church
Rabbi Arthur Blecher, Humanist Judaism
The Rev. Michael Bledsoe, Riverside Baptist Church
The Rev. Susan N. Blue, St. Margaret’s Episcopal Church
The Rev. Timothy Boggs, St. Alban's Episcopal Parish
The Rev. Loyce Borgman, Church of the Brethren
The Rev. Ben Boswell, Commonwealth Baptist Church
The Rev. Rob Boulter, St. Columba's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Charles Braun, Bishop, Old Catholic
Min. John-Anthony Burchall, Covenant Baptist Church
Min. Debra L. Camphor, Covenant Baptist Church
Dr. Shaun Casey, Wesley Theological Seminary
Bishop John Bryson Chane, Episcopal Diocese of Washington
The Rev. Randolph C. Charles, the Church of the Epiphany
The Rev. Martha Clark, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Douglas Clark, First Congregational United Church of Christ
Rabbi Kenneth L. Cohen, American University Hillel
The Rev. Donelda A. Cook, Covenant Baptist Church
The Rev. Countess Clark Cooper, Faith Temple
The Rev Jan Naylor Cope, Episcopal Diocese of Washington
The Rev. Henry Curry, Foundry United Methodist Church
Cantor Laura T. Croen, Temple Sinai
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Min. DeWayne Davis, Metropolitan Community Church of Washington
Bishop Jane Holmes Dixon, retired, Episcopal Diocese of Washington
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The Rev. Bill Doggett, Christ Episcopal Church, Washington Parish
The Rev. Rose Duncan, St. Columba's Episcopal Church
The Rev. John F. Dwyer, St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church
The Rev. Frank Gasque Dunn, St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church
The Rev. Renata E. Eustis, Christ Lutheran Church
The Rev. D. William Faupel, Wesley Theological Seminary
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Rabbi Charles Feinberg, Adas Israel Congregation
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The Rev. Dr. Malcolm L. Frazier, Howard University
The Rev. Kenneth Fuller, Cleveland Park Congregational United Church of Christ
The Rev. Tony Gattis, Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church
The Rev. Roger Gench, The New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Barbara Gerlach, First Congregational United Church of Christ
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The Rev. Ashley Goff, Church of the Pilgrims
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The Rev. Paula Clark Green, St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Louise Green, All Souls Church, Unitarian
The Rev. Douglas A. G. Greenaway, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rock Creek Parish
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The Rev. Leah Grundset, Calvary Baptist Church
The Rev. Brian E. Hamilton, Westminster Presbyterian DC
The Rev. Ruth W. Hamilton, Westminster Presbyterian DC
The Rev. Youtha Hardmam-Cromwell, Wesley Theological Seminary
Dr. Derrick Harkins, Nineteenth Street Baptist Church
The Rev. Vincent P. Harris, St. George's Episcopal Church
The Rev. Susan Hayward, First Congregational United Church of Christ
The Rev. Stan Hasteey, Alliance of Baptists
The Rev. Lillie Henley, Universalist National Memorial Church
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The Rev. Denise Dombkowski Hopkins, Wesley Theological Seminary
The Rev. Monique Ellison, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
The Rev. Carolyn Hutchinson, Covenant Baptist Church
The Rev. Whit Hutchison, Pastor, Wesley United Methodist Church
The Rev. Margee Iddings, Church of the Pilgrims
The Rev. Msgr. Jameson, Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle
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The Rev. Skip Jordan, Metropolitan Community Church of Washington
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The Rev. John S. Kidd, Augustana Lutheran Church
The Rev. Kenneth H. King, Covenant Baptist Church
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The Rev. Shana A. Lynngood, All Souls Church, Unitarian
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The Rev. Tara Suphler McCabe, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Dean McDonald, Presbyterian minister
The Rev. James L. McDonald, Presbyterian minister
The Rev. Lorrie Mepherson, Metropolitan Community Church of Washington
The Rev. Noemi Mena, National City Christian Church
The Rev. Brian Merritt, The Palisades Community Church
The Rev. Carol Howard Merritt, Western Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Judith E. Michaels, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Daryl LC Moch, Inner Light Ministries
The Rev. Wendy Moen, First Trinity Lutheran Church
The Rev. Steven B. Moore, National City Christian Church
The Rev. E. Maynard Moore, Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church
The Rev. Mary Clark Moschella, Wesley Theological Seminary
The Rev. Kate Murphey, Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Cooperative Parish
The Rev. Michael Willett Newheart, Howard University School of Divinity
The Rev. Susan Newman, Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ
The Rev. Richard A. Nugent, Unitarian Universalist
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The Rev. Joseph M. Palacios, Georgetown University
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The Rev. John Peterson, Washington National Cathedral
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The Rev. Theresa Thames-Lynch, Foundry United Methodist Church
The Rev. Gwendolyn Tobias, Washington National Cathedral
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The Rev. Carlton Veazey, The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
The Rev. Janet Vincent, St. Columba's Episcopal Church
Min. Aaron Wade, Covenant Baptist Church
The Rev. George B. Walker, Jr., Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ
The Rev. Martha Wallace, Christ Church, Washington Parish
The Rev. Andrew Walton, Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church
The Rev. Scott Wells, Unitarian Universalists minister
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The Rev. Michael D. Wilker, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Min. Kelly D. Wilkins, Covenant Baptist Church
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