

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.

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The Rev. Kendal Brown, City of Refuge Church of Greater Washington
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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

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The Rev. Elizabeth F. Bebber, Baptist minister

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The Rev. Douglas Clark, First Congregational United Church of Christ
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Rabbi Charles Feinberg, Adas Israel Congregation
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The Rev. Scott Wells, Unitarian Universalists minister

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