

Religious Coalition for Equality

Who Are We?

The *Religious Coalition for Equality* (RCE) is an interfaith association of lay persons and clergy committed to this twofold purpose; to educate Washington State citizens about, and to advocate for, marriage equality for every couple and the civil rights of all.

The Coalition was formed after 200 clergy and religious leaders rallied in support of the six same-sex couples who sought marriage licenses in King County in March of 2004.

Our Purpose

The purpose of RCE is to provide a progressive interfaith voice in Washington State around issues of marriage equality and equal rights for sexual minorities. We offer an alternative vision and voice to far-right fundamentalists and the view they intend to impose upon our nation.

Our Goals

Over the next year, RCE will again provide a clear voice to pass the anti-discrimination law in the Washington State Legislature protecting individual rights for sexual minorities.

Over the next year, RCE will continue to push for marriage equality, providing the much-needed interfaith progressive voice advocating for same sex couples.

Over the next year, RCE will expand our coalition of religious leaders to include all progressive people of faith to offer a stronger religious voice for equality in Washington State.

Our Specific Programs

RCE is organizing clergy colloquies around the State where clergy can discuss the theological and pastoral questions involved with marriage equality. Scriptural interpretation is often difficult. Offering pastoral care to same-sex couples in a congregation with divergent views can be challenging. Providing places where clergy can wrestle together with these challenges will benefit everyone involved with marriage equality.

RCE is also organizing a second rally on the Capitol steps in support of marriage equality and the Anderson – Murray Antidiscrimination bill. In cooperation with Equal Rights Washington and many other LGBT organizations, RCE will again bring the progressive voice of faith to Olympia.

It is absolutely essential, as the Legislature responds to the much anticipated Washington State Supreme Court decision in the Marriage Equality cases, that the progressive voice of faith be heard.

Our History

In the last twelve months RCE organized a Marriage Equality Forum and Interfaith Worship Service at Town Hall and the Valentine's Day Rally on the Capitol steps in Olympia in support of marriage equality and the Anderson – Murray Antidiscrimination bill.

Over 1,700 people gathered in Olympia to sing, to rally, to speak out in support of equality. Many attended advocacy workshops and then visited their legislators voicing their support for the Anderson – Murray Antidiscrimination bill.

Over 250 clergy and religious leaders from numerous faith traditions have signed the Faith Statement in support of same-sex marriage.

RCE has established solid working relationships with many groups involved with marriage equality and antidiscrimination legislation including Equal Rights Washington, Lambda Legal, Legal Marriage Alliance, Don't Amend, Freedom to Marry, and the Northwest Women's Law Center.

RCE Steering Committee

Dr. Stephen Jones, Co-chair, Baptist
Rev. Monica Corsaro, Co-chair, Methodist
Rev. Paul Benz, Lutheran
Rabbi Harley Karz-Wagman, Jewish
Rev. Elizabeth "Kit" Ketcham, Unitarian
Rev. Gerald Nash, Presbyterian
Kathy Sakahara, Methodist
Cantor David Serkin-Poole, Jewish
Rev. Ed Shields, Roman Catholic
Rev. David Strong, Apostolic Catholic

Stan Kehl, Executive Director, Disciples

For more information contact: Rev. Monica Corsaro at 206-353-2637

