

Scripture and Marriage Equality: Resources

2006 Colloquy resource materials



Statement of Faith-Based Support for Same-Sex Marriage – Religious Coalition for Equality*

We, the undersigned religious leaders of faith-based agencies, communities and congregations in the Greater Puget Sound region, join together to speak with one voice as we advocate for equal civil and legal rights for all couples in the State of Washington. Just as religious leaders before us have spoken to end slavery, and ensure equal rights to all persons regardless of gender or race, so we oppose any legislation that discriminates, in particular, limiting the civil rights of any couple to marry or join in union.

Love is a universal constant spoken of in all religions. To restrict the right of any couple to express their vows of love and form families through marriages or unions is an unconscionable violation of religious freedom. We believe that the government should never act to impose the beliefs of some religions upon others.

We oppose any effort to change the Constitution of the United States to enshrine discrimination into law. We believe that doing so infringes upon the rights of the individual states to regulate marriages. We further believe that, should such an amendment pass, it would violate the spirit of freedom for all people that the founders of our nation instilled in us.

We must speak out. We have participated or officiated in unions and marriages of same sex couples, some of us for many years, and have been profoundly moved by the sincere desire for tradition and stability within these families. We have seen how these unions have benefited and built community.

We call upon the Legislature of Washington State to take a stand against discrimination in our state by repealing the so-called “Defense of Marriage Act” enacted on February 6, 1998, and adopting legislation that extends equal rights to all couples. Many same sex couples have too long suffered the denial of basic rights that allow determination of medical care, care of children, and inheritance of mutual property. We call upon our legislators to resist any movement to amend the U.S. Constitution to restrict the union of any couple who wishes to marry. We in turn will engage in dialogue, education and direct action within the community to ensure that our voice is heard.

Marriage in our society is under attack, but not by same sex couples. It is undermined instead by spousal and child abuse, the trivialization of commitment, the breakdown of social support systems and the denial of legal recognition of the unions of same sex couples.

We speak for many in our communities who believe that the continued denial of the rights (rites) of marriage and union to same sex couples is a national shame. Our nation claims to stand for freedom and equality for all. We urge you to join us and advance that great tradition.

* The Religious Coalition for Equality
1122 E Pike St. #1423
Seattle, WA 98122-3934
info@religiouscoalition-wa.org
www.religiouscoalition-wa.org
206.930.6253