

Proposed Policy for Marriage Equality

After much prayer and deliberation, the Congregational Council proposes the following policy for marriage equality at Foundry United Methodist Church. We call upon the congregation to consider and discuss this policy. The congregation is invited to gather on September 26th in a Church Conference, where all present and professing members of Foundry will vote on this proposed policy. The Conference will begin at 1 PM with ballot distribution occurring after the 11 AM worship service.

AUGUST 6, 2010

AS A COMMUNITY OF FAITH, we recognize God's profound blessing of committed life partnerships, including same-gender couples. Furthermore, we affirm that the celebration of committed same-gender relationships is an important part of the ministry of our church, and is a witness to the joyous gift of God's love. Our commitment to celebrating the blessing of all committed life partnerships is deeply rooted in our commitment to social justice and our mission to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

CURRENTLY, OUR SENIOR PASTOR makes himself available to lead services in our building that recognize and honor gay and lesbian committed relationships, however, our clergy do not conduct or fully celebrate same-gender marriages. This current practice is inconsistent with our commitment to social justice, and results in discriminatory treatment among us.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH states that "in The United Methodist Church no conference or other organizational unit of the Church shall be structured so as to exclude any member or any constituent body of the Church because of race, color, national origin, status or economic condition." We believe that social prejudices added to the *Book of Discipline* that exclude gay and lesbian members from the full life of the church contravene this basic Constitutional principle of the Church. Specifically, paragraph 341.6 of the *Discipline*, which states that "...ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches..." discriminates against same-gender couples and is inconsistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ, as well as the Constitution. We recognize that United Methodists are

not in agreement on these matters, and that celebration of same-gender marriage is a decision of individual clergy. We also recognize and support the right of clergy to act in differing ways with respect to this issue. However, we believe that it is appropriate for our clergy to know the mind of their congregation on this matter.

WE THEREFORE RECOMMIT to working within the denomination to change the *Discipline* of the United Methodist Church so that it may be consistent with the teachings of Jesus Christ. We also commit to supporting and honoring same-gender marriages in the same way that we support and honor other marriages. We fully recognize and assume the risks associated with these commitments, because we are called upon by God, through Jesus Christ, to resist injustice and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE that the congregation of Foundry United Methodist Church will support and honor the marriages of couples licensed to be married in the District of Columbia equally, regardless of the couple's gender. We offer and approve the use of our sanctuary equally for all marriage ceremonies, including same-gender marriages, and we affirm that any of our clergy who choose to minister fully to "all persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition" by celebrating such marriages may do so knowing that we pledge to them our full support.

WE ASK that God guide our decisions and our prophetic leadership, so that we might bring the light of God's unconditional love to all.