



**INTERFAITH ALLIANCE**  
OF IOWA  
PROTECTING FAITH AND FREEDOM

February 16, 2010

Dear Senators and Representatives,

As clergy representing a broad spectrum of theological beliefs, we join together to state our public support of civil marriage equality for same-gender couples and our opposition to any current or future legislation diminishing the marriage rights rightfully given by Iowa's Supreme Court. We are compelled by our deepest beliefs to stand for fairness in our common civic life. We oppose the use of sacred texts and religious traditions to deny equal protection and responsibility under the law for gay and lesbian couples.

From a religious perspective, marriage is about a couple entering into a holy covenant with their God and making a long-term commitment to share life's joys and sorrows. Moreover, as many faith traditions affirm, where there is love, the sacred is in our midst. This belief is the same for couples comprised of a man and a woman, two women, or two men. As such, a marriage based in love and commitment must be honored and supported.

Civilly, marriage is commonly valued in society because it creates stable, committed relationships; provides a means to protect and be responsible for each other; and nurtures the individual, the couple, and children. All families must be supported in building stable, empowering, and respectful relationships. Marriage equality is a means to strengthen families and is especially beneficial to children who are raised by gay and lesbian couples.

We affirm freedom of conscience in this matter. Marriage equality honors the religious convictions of those communities and clergy who officiate at, and bless, same-gender marriages. We recognize the state does not and should not require clergy or religious traditions who disagree with same-gender marriage to officiate at, or bless, the ceremonies of gay and lesbian couples. The state must respect the convictions of all religious groups and individuals, while also allowing the fundamental right of marriage to be granted fairly to all people.

As clergy, we stand together in support of civil marriage equality for ALL families. We ask for your support of civil marriage equality and ask that you oppose any resolution or attempt to diminish the marriage rights of Iowa's families.

*(Inclusion of signatory's congregation, organization, or denomination is for identification purposes only.)*

With appreciation,

*Bishop Alan Scarfe; Bishop; Episcopal Diocese of Iowa*

*Rev. Dr. Rich Pleva; Iowa Conference Minister; United Church of Christ*

*Rev. Dr. Richard Guentert; Former Regional Minister of the Upper Midwest Region (retired); Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*

*Rev. Charles Ager; ELCA (retired); Strawberry Point*

*The Rev. Alexander A. Aiton, Jr.; Rector, St. John's by the Campus Episcopal Church & Student Center; Ames*

*The Rev. Dr. James Altenbaumer; United Church of Christ; Cedar Falls*

*Rev. Nancy L. Anderson; Zion United Church of Christ; Hubbard*

*Rev. Michael N. Armstrong; Senior Minister; First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Davenport*

*Rev. Paul S. Bengtson; ELCA (retired); Storm Lake*

*Rev. Steve Bibb; First United Methodist Church; Fort Dodge*

*Rev. Anna Blaedel; United Methodist Church; Osage*

*Rev. Ramona S. Bouzard; St. Paul Lutheran Church; Waverly*

*Rev. Dr. Walter C. Bouzard; Waverly*

*Rev. Stephen L. Bowie; Member, Presbytery of Des Moines; Bloomfield*

*Pastor Brad Braley; First Presbyterian Church; Cedar Falls*

*Rev. Kenneth E. Briggs, Jr.; Chaplain, Lt. Col, USAF (retired); Altoona Christian Church (DOC); Altoona*

*The Rev. Jeanette Brodersen; Associate Minister, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ; Des Moines*

*Rev. Barbara Bullock; United Church of Christ (retired); Ankeny*

*The Rev. Dr. Sean D. Burke; Luther College; Decorah*

*Rev. Christopher C. Burtnett; Schleswig United Church of Christ; Schleswig*

*Rev. Linda M. Butler; Collegiate United Methodist & Wesley Foundation; Ames*

*The Rev. Dr. Robert A. Butterfield; Urbandale United Church of Christ; Urbandale*

*Rev. Eva S. Cameron; Unitarian Universalist Society of Black Hawk County; Cedar Falls*

*Reverend Tom Capo; Peoples Church Unitarian Universalist; Cedar Rapids*

*Pastor John Chaplin; Licensed Pastor; Central Association of the Iowa Conference of the United Church of Christ; Des Moines*

*Rev. Kathleen Clark; United Methodist Church (retired); Des Moines*

*Priest Richard Cleaver; Saints Ephrem and Macrina Mission, Orthodox-Catholic Church of America; Grinnell*

*Rev. Dr. David Cline; Evangelical Church in America; Polk City*

*Rev. Milton Cole Duvall; Episcopalian; West Des Moines*

*Rev. Elizabeth Colton; United Church of Christ; Oskaloosa*

*Dr. Rev. Robert Cook; Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. (retired); Des Moines*

*Rev. William Cotton; United Methodist Church (retired); Des Moines*

*Rev. Robert S. Crandall; Executive Director; Bidwell Riverside Center; Des Moines*

*Pastor Michael Dack; United Church of Christ; Newton*

*Rev. D. Mark Davis; Pastor, Heartland Presbyterian Church; Clive*

*Rev. Pamela S. Deeds; Walnut Hills United Methodist Church/ Wesley UMC's; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Dennis Dickman; ELCA (retired); Waverly*  
*Rev. Dr. Tim Diebel; First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Des Moines*  
*Rev. Elizabeth Dilley; First Congregational United Church of Christ; Red Oak*  
*Rev. Barbara Dinnen; United Methodist Church; Des Moines*  
*The Rev. Maureen Doherty; Cedar Valley Episcopal Campus Ministry; Cedar Falls*  
*Sondra Eddings; Minister; Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Des Moines*  
*Rabbi Steven Edelman-Blank; Tifereth Israel Synagogue; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Dr. Brian Eslinger; Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Ames; Ames*  
*Rev. Peg Esperenza; Church of the Holy Spirit, MCC; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Faith Ferre'; Minister of Discipleship, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Jeffrey E. Filkins; Trinity United Church of Christ; Hartley*  
*The Rev. Travis M. Fisher; St. Mark Lutheran Church; Davenport*  
*Rev. Dr. Barbara Gaddis; Collegiate Presbyterian Church; Ames*  
*The Rev. Andrew G. Gangle; Peace Lutheran Church; Adel*  
*Rev. Fred R. Gee; retired, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Des Moines*  
*Reverend Tom Gehlsen; Episcopal Diocese of Iowa; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Randall E. Gehring; Bethesda Lutheran Church, ELCA; Ames*  
*Rev. Jaymee Glenn-Burns; Field Outreach Minister, United Methodist Church; Cedar Falls*  
*Rev. David Glenn-Burns; Wesley Foundation at UNI; Cedar Falls*  
*Rabbi Guy Greene; Congregation Beth Shalom; Sioux City*  
*The Rev. John H. Greve; New Song Episcopal Church; Coralville*  
*Rev. Chet Guinn; Methodist Federation for Social Action; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Elizabeth Gull; Universal Life Church; Nevada*  
*Rev. Susan Guy; United Methodist; Urbandale*  
*Pastor John Hagberg; St. Mark Lutheran Church; Sioux City*  
*The Rev. Jennifer L. Hall; Chaplain, Iowa Health; Metropolitan Community Churches; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Dawn Halstead; Chaplain, Hospice of Central Iowa; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Bob Hamilton; United Church of Christ (retired); Davenport*  
*Rev. George Hanusa; ELCA (retired); Windsor Heights*  
*Rev. Richard W. Harbart; United Church of Christ; Clive*  
*The Rev. John Harper; New Song Episcopal Church; Coralville*  
*Rev. Stephanie Haskins; Associate Minister, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Nicole Havelka; Iowa Conference United Church of Christ; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Mark Haverland; United Methodist Church; Ankeny*  
*Rev. Dave Heinze; Campus Minister; Graceland University; Lamoni*  
*Rev. Rich Hendricks; Metropolitan Community Church of the Quad Cities; Davenport*  
*Rev. Dan Herndon; United Methodist Church (retired); Waterloo*

*Dr. Susan E. Hill; Associate Professor of Religion, UNI; Unitarian Universalist Society of Black  
Hawk County; Waterloo*

*The Rev. Holly Horn, PhD; Tiffin*  
*Rev. Margaret Hutchens; First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Charles City*  
*Rev. Gerald Iverson; Associate in Ministry; ELCA (retired); Sioux City*  
*Pastor Steven M. Jacobsen; First Lutheran Church; Decorah*  
*Rev. Carlos Jayne; United Methodist Church (retired); Des Moines*  
*Rev. Eric Johnson; Reformed Church in America; Des Moines*  
*Reverend Patricia Johnson; Episcopal Deacon; Sioux City*  
*Rev. Paul A. Johnson; United Church of Christ - Congregational; Ames*  
*The Rev. Scott A. Johnson; Lutheran Campus Ministry at Iowa State University (ELCA); Ames*  
*Rev. R. Paul Johnston; Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA); Sioux City*  
*The Rev. Dr. Judith Jones; St. Andrew's Episcopal Church; Waverly*  
*Rabbi Henry Jay Karp; Temple Emanuel; Davenport*  
*Rabbi David Kaufman; Temple B'Nai Jeshurun; Des Moines*  
*The Rev. Robert Keefer, PhD; Presbyterian; Clarinda*  
*Rev. Naomi Kirstein; Wellspring Community Church; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Bruce Kittle; Faith United Church of Christ; Iowa City*  
*The Rev. Dr. Kathryn A. Kleinhans; Wartburg College; Waverly*  
*Pastor Jim Klosterboer; Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church; Elkader*  
*Rev. C. Eugene Koth; United Methodist Church (retired); Clive*  
*Rev. Mark W. Kukkonen; Intentional Interim Pastor; St. Stephen's Lutheran Church; Cedar Rapids*  
*Rev. Carmen Lampe-Zeitler; United Methodist Church; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Martha E. Lang; Deacon; Trinity Episcopal Church; Muscatine*  
*The Rev. Torey Lightcap; Rector, St. Thomas Episcopal Church; Sioux City*  
*Rev. Kathleen Love, D.D.; Interfaith Minister; The Wedding Chapel; Des Moines*  
*Rev. James Love, D.D.; Interfaith Minister; The Wedding Chapel; Des Moines*  
*The Rev. William H. Lovin; Congregational United Church of Christ; Iowa City*  
*Rev. Ted Lyddon Hatten; Wesley Foundation, Drake University; Indianola*  
*Rev. Whit Malone; Collegiate Presbyterian Church; Ames*  
*Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-LeCroy; Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Matthew J. Mardis-LeCroy; Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ; Des Moines*  
*Pastor Sam Massey; First Presbyterian Church; Iowa City*  
*Rev. Gene Matthews; United Methodist Church (retired missionary)*  
*The Reverend Benjamin Maucere; Unitarian Universalist Society of Iowa City; Iowa City*  
*The Rev. Jean McCarthy; Rector; Episcopalian; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Diane McClanahan; Trinity United Methodist Church; Des Moines*  
*Rev. James I. Meadows, Jr.; First Congregational United Church of Christ; Fort Dodge*  
*The Rev. Russell Melby; Iowa Director, Church World Service/CROP; ELCA clergy;*  
*Rev. Fritz Mellberg; United Church of Christ; Hiawatha*  
*John Miller; Commissioned Lay Minister; Unitarian Universalist Society of Black Hawk County; Cedar Falls*  
*Reverend Roger Mohr; Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; Burlington*  
*Rev. Mary Moore; Unitarian Church of Davenport; Davenport*

*Rev. Allen Mothershed; United Church of Christ; Davenport*  
*Rev. Katherine Mulhern; Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ; Davenport*  
*Rev. Amy E. E. Murray, BCC; Urbandale United Church of Christ; Urbandale*  
*Pastor Vernon H. Naffier; Faculty, GrandView University; ELCA; Ankeny*  
*Rev. Peter T. Nash, PhD; Professor of Religion & Liberal Studies; Wartburg College; Waverly*  
*Rev. Gus Nelson; Presbyterian (retired); Des Moines*  
*Rev. Barbara Nish; Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Patricia Adams Oberbillig; Minister of Pastoral Care (retired), Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Delwyn L. Olivier; Augustana Lutheran Church; Sioux City*  
*Rev. Ronald Osborne; Des Moines*  
*Rev. James R. Pemble; United Methodist Church (retired); Des Moines*  
*The Rev. Doug Peters; Senior Minister, Walnut Hills United Methodist Church; Urbandale*  
*Rev. Oren Peterson; Unitarian Universalist (retired); Des Moines*  
*Rev. Ronald D. Petrak; United Methodist Church (retired); Des Moines*  
*Rev. Julie M. Poore; United Methodist Church; Granger*  
*Rev. Charles M. Pope; Rector; St. Paul's Episcopal Church; Grinnell*  
*Rabbi Jeff Portman; Agudas Achim Congregation; Iowa City*  
*Rev. Robert Price; retired; Newton*  
*The Rev. Catherine Quehl-Engel; Episcopalian; Mt. Vernon*  
*The Rev. Julia Rendon; Crossroads United Church of Christ; Indianola*  
*The Rev. Charity Rowley; Unitarian Universalist (retired); Iowa City*  
*Rev. Nancy Ruby; Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Clinton; Clinton*  
*The Reverend Dr. David R. Ruhe; Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Janette Scott; Presbyterian; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt; Christ Lutheran/St. Peter; LeMars*  
*Pastor Victoria Shepherd; Denver*  
*Rev. Charlotte Shivers; Unitarian Universalist (retired); Knoxville*  
*Rev. Deanna Shorb; College Chaplain; Grinnell*  
*Rev. Diana Jacobs Sickles; ELCA (retired); Des Moines*  
*Rev. Gary Sneller; First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); Ottumwa*  
*Rev. Dr. Larry W. Sonner, D.Min.; United Methodist Church (retired); Urbandale*  
*Rev. Ron Spears; Retired clergy; Waterloo*  
*Pastor Sarah Stadler-Ammon; Denver*  
*Rev. Jerry Stevenson; Welsh Congregational Church UCC; Iowa City*  
*Rev. William Steward; Grace United Methodist Church; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Jane Stewart; New Song Episcopal Church; Coralville*  
*Rev. Gayle V. Strickler, Jr.; Adjunct Minister for Community Concerns, Urbandale United Church of Christ; Urbandale*  
*Rev. Mark Stringer; First Unitarian Church; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Cheryl R. Thomas; Calvary Baptist Church; Des Moines*

*The Rev. Rachel Thorson Mithelman; St. John's Lutheran Church; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Dr. James L. Wallace; Central Presbyterian Church; Des Moines*  
*Pastor Barbara Weier; Zion United Church of Christ; Hartley*  
*Rev. Dr. Susan K. Weier; United Church of Christ; Grinnell*  
*Pastor Kenneth C. Wells; Licensed Lay Pastor; First Congregational UCC Church; Onawa*  
*Pastor Mary A. Wells; Licensed Lay Pastor; First Congregational UCC Church; Onawa*  
*Rev. Jane A. Willan; Zion United Church of Christ; Burlington*  
*Rev. Dr. Dana Wimmer; Waterloo First United Methodist Church; Waterloo*  
*Rev. Angie Witmer; Minister to Young Adults & Youth, Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ; Des Moines*  
*Rev. Beverly J. Wolff; St. John Lutheran Church; Cushing*  
*The Rev. Jean Wollenberg; Executive Director/Chaplain, Hospice of Washington County; Washington*  
*Rev. Bob Wollenberg; United Presbyterian Church; Washington*  
*Rev. Mark A. Young; Wesley United Methodist Church; Ottumwa*