

The Protection of Marriage: A Shared Commitment



Dear Friends,

Marriage is the permanent and faithful union of one man and one woman. As such, marriage is the natural basis of the family. Marriage is an institution fundamental to the well-being of all of society, not just religious communities.

As religious leaders across different faith communities, we join together and affirm our shared commitment to promote and protect marriage as the union of one man and one woman. We honor the unique love between husbands and wives; the indispensable place of fathers and mothers; and the corresponding rights and dignity of all children.

Marriage thus defined is a great good in itself, and it also serves the good of others and society in innumerable ways. The preservation of the unique meaning of marriage is not a special or limited interest but serves the good of all. Therefore, we invite and encourage all people, both within and beyond our faith communities, to stand with us in promoting and protecting marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Sincerely yours,

Leith Anderson

President
National Association of Evangelicals

Dr. Thomas E. Armiger

Dr. Jo Anne Lyon
Dr. Jerry G. Pence
The Board of General Superintendents
The Wesleyan Church

Dr. Gary M. Benedict

President
The Christian and Missionary Alliance

Glenn C. Burris Jr.

President
The Foursquare Church

Bishop H. David Burton

Presiding Bishop
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Dr. Ronald W. Carpenter, Sr.

Presiding Bishop
International Pentecostal Holiness Church
Ministries

Nathan Diament

Director, Institute for Public Affairs
Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of
America

Most Rev. Timothy M. Dolan

Archbishop of New York
President
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Dr. Eugénio R. Duarte

Dr. David W. Graves
Dr. Jesse C. Middendorf
Dr. Jerry D. Porter

Dr. Stan A. Toler
Dr. J. K. Warrick
The Board of General Superintendents
The Church of the Nazarene

The Most Rev. Robert Duncan

Archbishop, Anglican Church in North America
Bishop, Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh

Rev. Jim Eschenbrenner

Executive Pastor
Christian Union

Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Gammon

Conference Minister
Conservative Congregational Conference

Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

President
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

John Hopler

Director
Great Commission Churches

Dr. Clyde M. Hughes

Bishop
International Pentecostal Church of Christ

Ken Hunn

Executive Director
The Brethren Church

Bishop Harry Jackson

Senior Pastor, Hope Christian Church
Bishop, Fellowship of International Churches

The Most Blessed Jonah

Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada
Orthodox Church in America

Dr. Richard Land

President
Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty
Commission

Rev. Frederick J. Moury Jr.

National Conference Chair
Evangelical Congregational Church

Dr. James Murray

Interim Executive Director
General Association of General Baptists

Rev. Samuel Rodriguez

President
National Hispanic Christian
Leadership Conference

Manmohan Singh

Secretary General
World Sikh Council – America Region

The Rev. Paull E. Spring

Bishop
North American Lutheran Church

Dr. Joseph Tkach

President
Grace Communion International

Rev. Phil Whipple

Bishop
Church of the United Brethren in Christ, USA

Dr. George O. Wood

General Superintendent
Assemblies of God