

Statement of Conscience and Call to Action ~ UUCA Board of Trustees 1/18/2012

*Preamble*

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville is a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, one of whose seven principles is the affirmation of justice, equity and compassion in human relations.

In 1995, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville was designated a Welcoming Congregation by the Association. As part of the requirement for that designation, we agreed to advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, to attend to legislative development and to promote justice, freedom and equality in the larger society. We also agreed to speak out when the rights and dignity of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are at stake.

The Congregation's Mission is to work in community for freedom, justice and love. We are to encourage meaningful and visible actions as a congregation for community service, advocacy, witness and education as well as to be a beacon of progressive thought and action in the Asheville area.

*Statement of Conscience*

We, the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville, affirm the basic right of same-gender couples to share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitments of civil marriage. In the absence of this right to marry, we oppose any law, policy, or practice that limits the recognition of same-gender couples' relationships and families and any related rights and protections.

*Call to Action*

We call on the members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation to take concrete and meaningful action to oppose any attempt to enshrine discrimination against same-gender couples in the North Carolina Constitution.

*Such actions may include but are not limited to:*

- Participating in voter registration efforts in conjunction with partner organizations.
- Raising awareness of the discriminatory effects of any proposed laws or constitutional amendments by writing letters to the editor of area newspapers, urging fellow North Carolinians to vote against such amendments, and participating in public actions organized or advertised by UUCA.
- Making individual commitments of time and money to organizations such as Protect All North Carolina Families and Equality NC that are working to defeat such discriminatory proposed laws or constitutional amendments.