

# **Equality is right. Discrimination is wrong!**

**Marriage Equality is an important justice issue because...**

## **All Families Matter**

Marriage equality guarantees equal access to the same rights, benefits and responsibilities for all families.

## **All Faiths Matter**

Marriage equality respects the Constitutional guarantee of religious liberty because, with marriage equality, religious bodies still have the freedom to determine what marriages between two people they will perform and recognize.

## **All Children Matter**

Marriage equality provides the same rights and protections for all children. According to the 2000 census, same-gender couples live in nearly every county across the country. More than a million children are living in same-gender households. The children of same-gender couples deserve the same rights and protections as children in any other family.

## **All Families Should Be Treated Equally throughout the U.S.**

Marriage equality respects the legal status of relationships from state to state. No family should have to worry about whether their relationships will be respected when they travel or move from one state to state another. For example, all delegates and visitors who come to the 25<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Atlanta should be confident that their relationships will be respected and treated equally under the law, especially those who come from states with some degree of marriage equality, such as Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut or California.

## **Marriage Equality Is Consistent with the Rights and Freedoms Guaranteed by the US Constitution!**

The US Constitution says that...

- All people are to be treated equally under the law.
- Religious liberty is to be protected, meaning that different religious perspectives are to be respected and one religious view is not to be imposed on the whole society.
- Civil contracts in one state, such as a civil marriage contract, are to be honored in all other states.

**Marriage equality treats all families equally under the law.**

**Marriage equality respects religious liberty.**

**Marriage equality honors the US Constitution's "full faith and credit" provision.**

**Anything less than marriage equality is unjust and unacceptable!**

### **For more information:**

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