

sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh

# THE COMMON WOMAN CHORUS & EQUALHEARTS

present

love &

Rights and Protections Denied Same-Sex Partners

Because same-sex couples are denied the right to marry, same-sex couples and their families are denied access to the more than 1,138 federal rights, protections and responsibilities automatically granted to married heterosexual couples. Among those are:

- The right to make decisions on a partner's behalf in a medical emergency. Specifically, the states generally provide that spouses automatically assume this right in an emergency. If an individual is unmarried, the legal "next of kin" automatically assumes this right. This means, for example, that a gay man with a life partner of many years may be forced to accept the financial and medical decisions of a sibling or parent with whom he may have a distant or even hostile relationship.
- The right to take up to 12 weeks of leave from work to care for a seriously ill partner or parent of a partner. The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 permits individuals to take such leave to care for ill spouses, children and parents but not a partner or a partner's parents.
- The right to petition for same-sex partners to immigrate.
- The right to assume parenting rights and responsibilities when children are brought into a family through birth, adoption, surrogacy or other means. For example, in most states, there is no law providing a noncustodial, nonbiological or nonadoptive parent's right to visit a child—or responsibility to provide financial support for that child—in the event of a breakup.
- The right to share equitably all jointly held property and debt in the event of a breakup, since there are no laws that cover the dissolution of domestic partnerships.
- Family-related Social Security benefits, income and estate tax benefits, disability benefits, family-related military and veterans benefits and other important benefits.
- The right to inherit property from a partner in the absence of a will.
- The right to purchase continued health coverage for a domestic partner after the loss of a job.

Such inequities impose added costs on these families, such as increased health insurance premiums, higher tax burdens and the absence of pension benefits or Social Security benefits in the event of a partner's death.

Some same-sex and transgender families consult attorneys to draw up legal documents such as powers of attorney, co-parenting agreements and wills, that will at least permit them to declare who they wish to make health care and financial decisions for them if they become incapacitated; how they wish to share parenting responsibilities or, in the event of a breakup, custody of a child; and what they want to happen to their property when they die. However, these are not a substitute for legal protection under law and cannot provide the broad range of benefits and protections provided by law.

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## NORTH CAROLINA RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY DECLARATION OF RELIGIOUS LEADERS: EQUALITY STATEMENT

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The most fundamental human right, after the necessities of food, clothing and shelter, is the right to affection and the supportive love of other human beings. We become most fully human when we love another person. We can grow in our capacity to be human—to be loving—in a family unit. This right to love and form a family is so fundamental that our United States Constitution takes it for granted in its dedication to "secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." The North Carolina Constitution likewise affirms the "inalienable rights" of human beings to "life, liberty, the enjoyment of the fruits of their own labor, and the pursuit of happiness."

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Throughout history, tyrants have known that by denying the right of oppressed peoples to form and nurture families, they can kill the spirit of those peoples. From the shameful history of slavery in America, the injustice of forbidding people to marry is evident as a denial of a basic human right. The American laws forbidding interracial marriage, now struck down, were clearly discriminatory. Denial of the status of marriage to those who would freely accept its responsibilities creates legal and economic inequities and social injustice. We feel called to protest and oppose this injustice.

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As religious people, clergy and lay leaders, we are mandated by faith to stand for justice in our common civic life. We oppose the use of sacred texts and religious traditions to deny legal equity to same-gender couples. As concerned citizens we affirm the liberty of adults of the same gender to love and marry. We insist that no one, especially the state, is allowed to coerce people into marriage or bar two consenting adults, whether of the same or differing genders, from forming the family unit that lets them be more fully loving, thus more fully human. We respect the fact that debate and discussion continue in many of our religious communities as to the scriptural, theological and liturgical issues involved. However, we draw on our many faith traditions to arrive at a common conviction. We are resolved that the State should not interfere with same-gender couples who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitments of civil marriage.

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We affirm freedom of conscience in this matter. We recognize that the state may not require religious groups to officiate at, or bless, same-gender marriages. Likewise, a denial of state civil recognition dishonors the religious convictions of those communities and clergy who officiate at, and bless, same-gender marriages. The state may not favor the convictions of one religious group over another by denying individuals their fundamental right to marry and to have those marriages recognized by civil law.

As faith leaders, we commit ourselves to public action, visibility, education, and mutual support in the service of the right and freedom to marry.

11 February 2006 • 8 PM • UUFR





### ACT 1 • The Love

**These Boots are Made for Walking** by Lee Hazlewood (performed by small group)

**Don't Get Around Much Anymore** by Bob Russell and Duke Ellington, arranged by Mark Brymer

**Pretty Woman** by Roy Orbison and Bill Dees (solo by Jude Casseday)

**Fever** by John Davenport and Eddie Cooley, arranged by Kirby Shaw

**Nearness of You** by Ned Washington and Hoagy Carmichael, arranged by Mac Huff (performed by small group) (Kristen Stinnett, guest conductor)

**My Girl** by William "Smokey" Robinson and Ronald White

**Head over Feet** by Alanis Morissette and Glen Ballard (solo by Kristen Stinnett)

**Best Friend's Wedding Medley** by Hal David, Burt Bacharach, Dorothy Fields and Jerome Kern, arranged by Roger Emerson (Kristen Stinnett, guest conductor)

### ACT 2 • The Marriage

**Night and Day** by Cole Porter, arranged by Pete King (Betty Prioux, guest conductor)

**Chapel of Love** by Phil Spector, Ellie Greenwich and Jeff Barry, arranged by Roger Emerson

**I Got You Babe** by Sonny Bono (duet by Sandi Sullivan and Eli Warren)

**Embraceable You** by George and Ira Gershwin, arranged by Kirby Shaw

**Honey, I'm Home** by Shania Twain and R.J. Lange (solo by Lisa Shupp)

**When I'm 64** by John Lennon and Paul McCartney, arranged by John Leavitt (Betty Prioux, guest conductor)

### ACT 3 • The Equality

**Secret Marriage** by Hans Eisler and Sting, arranged by Cindy Bizzell, Erin O'Hara, and Jude Casseday (Jude Casseday, guest conductor)

**Reading of The NC Religious Coalition for Marriage Equality Declaration of Religious Leaders and People of Faith** (Readers: Rev. Wanda Floyd of Imani Metropolitan Community Church, Rev. Mary Grigolia of Eno River UU Fellowship, Rev. Jack McKinney of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, and Rev. Rod Thompson of UU Fellowship of Raleigh)

**Everything Possible** by Fred Small

**Let Us Love in Peace** by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Ben Elton (Kristen Stinnett, guest conductor)

### COMMON WOMAN CHORUS

*Raising consciousness about the value of women's lives and experiences locally and around the world!*

The Chorus is a 501(c)(3) organization. To find out more about sponsoring a chorus event individually or at the corporate level, please visit our Web site.

#### ON THE HORIZON:

You asked for it and the Chorus delivers! Mark your calendars now for our very-first-time-ever YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONCERT on 6 May 2006. The Chorus will perform this matinee at Eno River UU Fellowship in Durham.

#### FIND OUT MORE AT

[www.commonwomanchorus.net](http://www.commonwomanchorus.net)

### EQUALHEARTS

*Affirming love, promoting justice—one heart at a time.*

#### FIND OUT MORE AT

[www.equalhearts.org](http://www.equalhearts.org)

### NC RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

*Defending all our families protecting our constitution.*

#### FIND OUT MORE AT

[www.ncrc4me.org](http://www.ncrc4me.org)

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**THE MUSIC**

**Director** Cindy Bizzell **Soprano One** Linda Carmichael • Caroline Herbert • Sarah Karakitsos • Jolene Robinson  
**Soprano Two** Karen Dold • Ruth Kravitz • Joan McAllister • Betty Prioux • Michelle Reader • Jenny Womack  
**Alto One** Melinda Campbell • Jules Ingram • Jane MacNeela • Lisa Shupp • Kristen Stinnett • Julia Storm • Laura Wrightson  
**Alto Two** Jude Casseday • Lea Cordova • Bernise Lynch • Marty McClelland • Robin Neville • Pam Parkinson • Joan Pierce • Mary Plyler • Betty Rider • Elizabeth Williams **Musicians** Jude Casseday (percussion)  
Kay "Jinx" Jenkins (drums) • Abbie Modjeska (piano) • Terri Phoenix (guitar) • Michelle Van Note (bass)  
**Concert Chair** Kristen Stinnett

**THE PLAY**

**Playwright** Jules Ingram **Stage Director** Kristen Stinnett **Cast** Delma Armstrong • Kelly Eppley • Jane MacNeela • Jennifer Polley • Jennifer Schake • Susanne Schmal • Sandi Sullivan • Eli Warren **Dancers** Holly Ferguson • Jen McKay  
**Set Design** Val Glaser • Kristen Stinnett **Set Construction** Jennifer Schake • Kristen Stinnett • Erin O'Hara • Angela Williams **Set Painting** Kyrie Eimicke • Kelly Eppley • Erin O'Hara • Jennifer Schake • Lisa Shupp • Kristen Stinnett • Angela Williams **Artistic Design** Angela Williams **Balloon Arch** Balloons & Tunes

**THE THANKS**

**Event Sponsor** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh Social Action Committee **Reception Sponsor** Haas McNeil and Associates, PA **House Manager** Corye B. Dunn **House Ushers** Kathy Bundy • Alison Consol • Jill Kidd • Darlene Labine • Gabby McCutchen • Laura Martin • Carmen White **Multimedia Presentation** Heather Monbureau-Barnes **Video** Elaine Monbureau-Barnes **Sound Host** Bo Chagnon **Sound Equipment** Dan Smith **Spotlight** Molly Cook • Denise B. Dunn **Reception Coordinator** Lisa Shupp **Reception Deejay** Jennifer Page  
**Reception Volunteers** Laurie Degernes • Kyrie Eimicke • Beth Flanagan • Jane Hunt • Jaime Mousty • Debbie Reilly • Sally Wintz • Tiffany Zigler **Paint Donations** Denise Dunn • Kelly Eppley • SWOOP **Program** Angela Williams  
**Wedding Cake** Michelle Tyson • Angela Williams **Special Thanks** to Tracy Hollister, Lisa Shupp, Kristen Stinnett, and Julia Storm for organizing this event and to "Jinx" Jenkins for supporting the chorus for so many years

**NEED A HONEYMOON? Win a week for two at the Coral Princess Hotel & Resort in Cozumel, Mexico! Get your NC Pride Band raffle tickets tonight for just \$10 for one, \$15 for two, or \$20 for three. Drawing will be held on 1 May 2006.**



**HAAS MCNEIL**  
**& ASSOCIATES, P.A.**  

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**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

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[www.carolinafamilylaw.com](http://www.carolinafamilylaw.com)

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## THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP OF RALEIGH

The Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh™ (UUFR) is proud to be a sponsor of *Love and Marriage*. The Social Action Committee chose to sponsor this event to live out principles of our UU faith, give public voice to the fellowship's Statement of Conscience in support of marriage equality, and offer continued support for EqualHearts, one of the fellowship's three All-Congregation Projects.

### Principles of our UU Faith

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

### The UUFR™ Statement of Conscience (passed unanimously in December 2004)

We, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh, affirm the basic right of same-gender couples to marry and to share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitments of civil marriage.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT UUFR, please visit [www.uufr.org](http://www.uufr.org).

### EqualHearts, an All Congregation Project

In 2005, UUFR voted to adopt three All-Congregation Projects. All-Congregation Projects are social action projects that empower us to realize our mission in building a more compassionate and just world. These projects facilitate intergenerational, cross-congregation participation and focus on service, education, and advocacy. UUFR members and friends give money and time toward these projects.

EqualHearts is an All-Congregation Project with a mission to strengthen, broaden and make visible the significant support for marriage equality within diverse communities of faith in the Triangle area. Specifically, it allows people to "write their hearts out" on foam hearts about why they support marriage equality and display these hearts publicly. We proudly display many of these hearts at this Love and Marriage event!

EqualHearts was started at UUFR in February 2005 around National Freedom to Marry Week. Please join us in celebrating this one-year anniversary!

For more information or to invite EqualHearts to your community of faith, watch our presentation at [www.equalhearts.org](http://www.equalhearts.org) or contact [tracy@equalhearts.org](mailto:tracy@equalhearts.org).

