

## **A PASTORAL STATEMENT CONCERNING ANTI-MARRIAGE PROPOSITIONS PASSED IN ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA AND FLORIDA**

Many members of Foundry United Methodist Church join me in expressing our disappointment that the voters of Arizona, California, and Florida passed propositions denying marriage to gay and lesbian couples. The recognition and honoring of any couple's committed relationship through marriage is respectful to them and is healthy for our society. Refusal to recognize and honor the commitment of any couple who asks us to do so actively undermines their desire to live faithfully to the promises they make to each other. Society's refusal to recognize and honor the marriages of gay and lesbian couples treats them as less than fully human.

Furthermore, we grieve our denomination's prohibition against services that "celebrate homosexual unions." Our denomination's sin is even greater than that of the civil society because we presume to represent the heart of God.

As pastor of Foundry United Methodist Church, I renew my pledge to lead services that recognize and honor gay and lesbian persons in committed relationships. I will continue to seek to do so in such a way that does not violate denominational rules of the United Methodist Church, even though I strongly disagree with them.

Foundry Church will continue to work for a church and society that includes and respects LGBT members, neighbors, and citizens. We do so because of the vision of Jesus for a world where "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one . . ." (Galatians 3:28).

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