

UU Church at Washington Crossing Unveils Marriage Rights Banner

A banner was recently unveiled at the UU Church at Washington Crossing (Titusville NJ) advocating for the right of same sex couples to marry. A photo of the banner appears at the website of the [Human Rights Campaign](#).



The congregation wanted to publicly show support for same sex couples who have made a deep personal commitment to each other, who are already doing the hard work of marriage in their lives, caring for one another and their families.

The banner was also to show support for the congregation's minister, the Rev. Charles J. Stephens, who has felt called do same sex weddings for the past twenty years, in both Titusville NJ and New Paltz NY in conjunction with the New Paltz Equity Coalition. The congregation agrees with his stand that in truth these couples have already made deep personal commitments to each other and deserve a legal commitment.

Rev. Stephens declares that discrimination is wrong, and it is unfair for the US government to deny same sex couples and families the important protections and responsibilities of marriage. In the past, the United States made legal changes to end discrimination. The US government should not be in the business of denying any American equality under the law. These changes would not imply that any minister, church, or religion should be forced to perform same sex marriages. But ministers and their congregations should be given the choice to practice their beliefs.

The UUA earlier adopted a position in support of legal recognition for marriage between members of the same sex and urges the member congregations to proclaim the worth of marriage between any two committed persons and to make this position known in their home communities.

The UU Church at Washington Crossing is an accessible and Welcoming Congregation. Being a Welcoming Congregation means the congregation openly welcomes and accepts people who are gay, lesbian, transgender, or bisexual into all aspects of congregational life and leadership.