

INFO PACKET FOR MINISTERS



#justmarriage

A Celebration of Marriage Equality
51 marriages in 48 hours, July 11 – July 12, 2015



Logistics and Other Details

First and foremost: Thank you! We're grateful for your partnership and participation in what is sure to be a joyous and historic event. Our denomination has a long history of standing on the side of love with same sex couples, and we appreciate your help during this busy time to celebrate and honor this moment.

About the event

For more than 30 years, Unitarian Universalists have been celebrating, honoring, performing, and recognizing same sex marriages around the country. It seems only fitting that we cap these three decades of solidarity with an event that speaks to our principles, offers public witness to our values, and celebrates the groundbreaking moment: a marriage in every state over 48 hours.

We know this is a busy time following General Assembly but the importance of this ruling is too huge to ignore. There's going to be a great deal of media about the ruling, and given our long standing support of same sex couples and families, we can't think of a more appropriate celebration!

Our celebration will take place July 11 and July 12, 2015. We have two asks:

51 Marriages in 48 Hours: We are looking for one minister in every US state and the District of Columbia who is interested in performing a same sex wedding to be publicized as part of our #justmarriage event. We will be inviting the public to follow along on social media as these weddings occurs, and need ministers who are comfortable providing photos and details on a quick turnaround (within an hour of the wedding). **A photo of the ceremony or of the minister and couple is required for participation.** If you are interested in participating, please fill out this form: <http://goo.gl/forms/zg1xdZ9sqB>.

- Do you already have a same sex wedding scheduled for that weekend? Please consider including it as part of this celebration. Check with the couple and send them to www.uua.org/justmarriage for more details, then email us with their contact information.

Free Same Sex Weddings: We would love to offer a list of congregations and ministers around the country willing to offer free same sex weddings the weekend of July 11 and 12, especially for those in states that will newly have same sex marriage recognition. If you are interested in this option, please fill out this form: <http://goo.gl/forms/zg1xdZ9sqB>.

Note: By “free wedding”, we mean the minister will offer their services and when needed, the congregation’s space can be used. We do not mean decorations, invitation, clothes, reception, and all the other things that couples often incorporate into their weddings.

What You Need To Do

We hope this packet will answer any questions you might have about the event but if you have any additional questions, feel free to email justmarriage@uua.org.

The lucky couple!: We are working to identify 51 couples and will be in touch once we have identified a couple in your area. We’ll connect you with the couple to chat or meet ahead of the event, and finalize details of where and when the wedding will occur (either July 11 or July 12). If you know of interested couples, please have them fill out this form:

<http://goo.gl/forms/n2RHgXhfzR>.

Media: Templates for press releases and media advisories are included in this packet, to be customized with information about your event, as well as tips on how to communicate with media. Please feel welcome to use the press release and media advisory templates to help publicize this event in your community. A few tips for using these templates well:

- A media advisory is intended for use with concrete events, where a specific activity will take place in a designated time and location. Send a media advisory a few days in advance of a #JustMarriage wedding your congregation will hold so a reporter can show up to cover the event as it happens.
- A press release has a broad goal of making media aware of important campaigns, initiatives, and events that are occurring in the near future. Send a press release a week in advance of the #JustMarriage festivities so a reporter can contact you for an interview, follow the hashtag online, or show up to cover the event as it happens.

If you have any questions about working with the media, feel free to contact our Information and Public Witness staff at info@uua.org.

Release Information: Included in this kit is a release form. Please return it by July 6. It can be scanned and emailed to justmarriage@uua.org or faxed to (617) 948-6469, ATTN: Audra Friend.

Photos: Please arrange to have someone on hand to photograph you and the couple, either as you perform the wedding or after. Photos need to be emailed to justmarriage@uua.org within an hour of the event. Photos taken with a digital camera are preferable; large, hi-res photos can be sent via <https://uua.wetransfer.com> to justmarriage@uua.org.

Social media: We will be using the #justmarriage hashtag for this event and updates will be posted on the UUA and Standing on the Side of Love Facebook pages and Twitter feeds. Download the social media cheat sheet after June 29 at www.uua.org/justmarriage for other suggested hashtags and sample tweets.

What if the Supreme Court doesn't rule for federal marriage recognition?

In the event that the Supreme Court doesn't rule for equality, we still plan to hold the event, and we request that participating ministers and couples continue to have their planned wedding. In our communications, we'll highlight the similarity in marriages in most of the country; noting that while those in 14 states don't receive the same marriage opportunities and recognition as those in the rest of the country.

What about other LGBTQ issues?

While marriage equality has been an important LGBTQ issue for Unitarian Universalists, we know that federal recognition of same sex marriages is just a small part of the fight for equality for LGBTQ couples and families. This celebration is just part of ongoing witness for equality for all, and we are committing ourselves toward continuing to expand the rights of LGBTQ people -- with recognition of people who are disproportionately impacted by systemic oppression like trans, gender non-conforming, and queer People of Color.

We are inviting Unitarian Universalists and others to consider giving to the Freedom to Live Drive for Standing on the Side of Love, to support the important work of this campaign.

Other questions or concerns?

Email: justmarriage@uua.org.

Unitarian Universalist Association Photo, Audio, and Video Release Form

I hereby authorize the Unitarian Universalist Association (“UUA”) to make use of my appearance in photographs, audio, and/or video recordings (hereafter, “media”). The UUA shall have complete ownership of the media. I grant the UUA the right to use it with no restrictions or claims, including, but not limited to, the right to edit, use, and reuse the media as the UUA deems appropriate. I also hereby release the UUA and its officers, employees, agents and volunteers, from all claims, demands, and liabilities whatsoever in connection with the above.

Name (printed): _____

Signature _____

Date _____

(must be signed by a parent/guardian if the participant is under 18 years of age)

Scan and email to justmarriage@uua.org or fax to (617) 948-6469 by July 6, 2015