FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Unitarian Universalists Celebrate National Marriage Equality by Holding Free Weddings for Same Sex Couples in All Fifty States and the District of Columbia**

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July 11-12, 2015

To celebrate the U.S. Supreme Court’s historic decision affirming the legality of same sex marriage nationwide, Unitarian Universalists (UUs) will marry same sex couples across the country in just two days. UUs have been vocal supporters of marriage equality for decades. [Since 1984](http://www.uua.org/statements/gay-and-lesbian-services-union) the national Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has publicly affirmed the practice of marrying same sex couples. The UUA has also signed on to amicus briefs in all the major freedom to marry court cases, including Obergefell v. Hodges.

As marriage equality measures have come up for votes in individual states, Unitarian Universalist ministers have been prominent in their support for equality. [Many ministers have traveled to nearby courthouses and city halls to perform weddings for willing couples on the spot. Or include your congregation’s participation here.] This event continues that tradition.

**In just two days—July 11 and 12, 2015—a same sex couple will be married by a Unitarian Universalist minister in every U.S. state and the District of Columbia. That’s 51 marriages in 48 hours.** [Congregations and communities will share in the joyous events/describe the location, date, and time of your congregation’s planned wedding], but much of the fun will be had online. Using the hashtag #JustMarriage, Unitarian Universalists will share images, video, and other content to mark this wonderful occasion.

This landmark legal decision is a long time coming. But it is not the end for full inclusion of LGBTQ people. Unitarian Universalists are now rededicated to expanding the rights of LGBTQ people—especially those disproportionately impacted by systemic oppression like trans, gender non-conforming, and queer people of color. This is #justmarriage, but full inclusion is so much more.

[Insert a description of your congregation’s mission as appropriate.]