

The Riverside Church



*Interracial • International • Interdenominational
Open • Affirming • Welcoming*

The Riverside Church Statement On Same Gender Civil Marriage

The Riverside Church has historically recognized the equal value of all members of the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgendered community, as demonstrated by:

- The Riverside Church's Gay Lesbian Statement of Inclusion issued in 1985
- The performance of same-sex union ceremonies since 1991 by clergy of The Riverside Church
- The Riverside Church's Mission Statement since 1992
- The adoption by The Riverside Church Council in 1997 of the Lambda Legal Defense Fund's Same Gender Civil Marriage resolution

The Riverside Church reaffirms the equality of all God's children and further recognizes that all holy unions between committed, loving adults are of equal value in God's sight. Therefore, the Riverside community, for church purposes, will recognize all such couples as married. Furthermore, while civil law does not extend equal recognition at present, The Riverside Church will actively work to change laws that in any way (i) diminish the real or apparent value of any committed couple, (ii) attaches any different name to any couple, or (iii) denies to a same gender couple the benefits extended to a mixed gender married couple.

Approved by Annual Meeting May 2004