

# Vol. 9, No.3, 28 April 2015

## ***News from Our Anglican World***

Vol. 9, No. 3 – 28 April 2015

"Everything this nation once stood for is being turned on its head. Free speech, religious expression, privacy, due process, bodily integrity, the sanctity of human life, the sovereignty of the family, individuality, the right to self-defense, protection against police

abuses, representative government, private property, human rights—the very ideals that once made this nation great--have become casualties of a politically correct, misguided, materialistic, amoral, militaristic culture." --- John W. Whitehead, President, Rutherford Institute

"Heaven is God's sphere of created reality, which as the Lord's Prayer suggests will one day colonize our earth. What matters is that the kingdom of God is bringing the values and priorities of God himself to bear on the greed and anxiety of the world." ~ Bishop N. T. Wright, Theologian and Professor, St. Andrews University.

"If renewed Anglicanism has a future, it is because it is rooted in the past, in the catholic heritage of the undivided Church. This summer's International Catholic Congress of Anglicans, in Ft. Worth, will help us all to see

more deeply both what this means, and how we are empowered and challenged to live this out." ---

Fr. Lawrence Bausch

"We say we want to be like Jesus. If so, prepare for the rocks ... AND the victory." ~ George B. Flint

## **The Supreme Court Takes Up the Question of Gay Marriage**

As many of you know the U. S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments beginning today, Tuesday, April 28 on the future of the institution of marriage. Both the Anglican Church in North America and the Reformed Episcopal Church continue to believe that marriage is between one man and one woman, as clearly spelled out in Holy Scripture. In fact, it has been at the heart of every enduring world culture because life long ago taught that such cultures thrive when children are raised in stable, two-parent, mother-father homes.

Below is an open letter signed last week by representatives of most of the country's major religious organizations, including ACNA Archbishop Dr. Foley Beach and Archbishop Emeritus Bob Duncan. Bishop Sutton was consulted on and participated in the development of this open letter our archbishop signed.

It is recommended that you read this article and pray for the court to retain this understanding when its decision comes down in the months to come. Included is a list those who officially signed the document. As the courts deliberations continue, you are also encouraged to use the prayer for *Courts of Justice* beginning on page 35 of the 1928 Book of Common Prayer.

Blessings,

Rudy Schenken

Parish Administrator

Pro Cathedral Church of the Holy Communion

Dallas, Texas

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## An Open Letter from Religious Leaders to All in Positions of Public Service

Dear Friends:  
April 2015

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At this significant time in our nation's history with the institution of marriage before the United States Supreme Court, we reaffirm our commitment to promote and defend marriage – the union of one man and one woman. As religious leaders from various faith communities, we acknowledge that marriage is the foundation of the family where children are raised by a mother and a father together. Our commitment to marriage has been expressed on previous occasions, including the Letter of Shared Commitment and Letter on Marriage and Religious Liberty. This commitment is inseparable from affirming the equal dignity of all people and the necessity of protecting their basic rights.

The state has a compelling interest in maintaining marriage as it has been understood across faiths and cultures for millennia because it has a compelling interest in the well-being of children. Every child has a mother and a father, and every child deserves the opportunity, whenever possible, to be raised by his or her own married mother and father in a stable, loving home. Marriage as the union of a man and a woman is the only institution that encourages and safeguards the connection between children and their mother and father. Although this connection cannot always be realized and sustained – and many single parents, for example, are heroic in their efforts to raise their children – it is in the best interests of the state to encourage and uphold the family founded on marriage and to afford the union of husband and wife unique legal protection and reinforcement.

The redefinition of legal marriage to include any other type of relationship has serious consequences, especially for religious freedom. It changes every law involving marital status, requiring that other such relationships be treated as if they were the same as the marital relationship of a man and a woman. No person or community, including religious organizations and individuals of faith, should be forced to accept this redefinition. For many people, accepting a redefinition of marriage would be to act against their conscience and to deny their religious beliefs and moral convictions. Government should protect the rights of those with differing views of marriage to express their beliefs and convictions without fear of intimidation, marginalization or unwarranted charges that their values imply hostility, animosity, or hatred of others.

In this and in all that we do, we are motivated by our duty to love God and neighbor. This love extends to all those who disagree with us on this issue. The well-being of men, women, and the children they conceive compels us to stand for marriage as the union of one man and one woman. We call for the preservation of the unique meaning of marriage in the law, and for renewed respect for religious freedom and for the conscience rights of all in accord with the common good.

Sincerely Yours:

The Rev. Dr. Leith Anderson  
President  
National Association of Evangelicals

The Most Rev. Dr. Foley Beach  
Archbishop and Primate  
Anglican Church in North America

Dr. A.D. Beacham, Jr.  
Presiding Bishop  
International Pentecostal Holiness Church

The Rev. John F. Bradosky

Bishop  
North American Lutheran Church

Rev. Mark Chavez  
General Secretary  
North American Lutheran Church

Clint Cook  
Executive Director  
General Association of General Baptists

Most Rev. Salvatore J. Cordileone  
Archbishop of San Francisco  
Chairman USCCB Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios  
Archbishop of America  
President of the Holy Eparchial Synod  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

The Most Rev. Robert Duncan  
Archbishop Emeritus  
Anglican Church in North America  
Bishop, Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh

Rev. Dr. Ron Hamilton  
Conference Minister  
Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison  
President  
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Rev. Bruce D. Hill  
Bishop  
Evangelical Congregational Church

John Hopley  
Director  
Great Commission Churches

Steven R. Jones  
President  
Missionary Church, Inc.

Imam Faizul Khan  
Islamic Society of Washington Area

Most Rev. Joseph E. Kurtz  
Archbishop of Louisville  
President  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Most Rev. William E. Lori  
Archbishop of Baltimore  
Chairman  
USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty

Dr. Jo Anne Lyon  
General Superintendent  
The Wesleyan Church

Most Rev. Richard J. Malone  
Bishop of Buffalo Chairman  
USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

Dr. Russell Moore  
President  
Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

Dr. Gus Reyes  
Director  
Christian Life Commission, Texas Baptists

Rev. Eugene F. Rivers, III  
Founder and President  
Seymour Institute for Black Church and Policy Studies

Jacqueline C. Rivers  
Executive Director  
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Larry Roberts  
Chief Operating Officer  
The Free Methodist Church - USA

Rocky Rocholl  
President  
Fellowship of Evangelical Churches

Rev. Samuel Rodriguez  
President  
National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference/

Hispanic Evangelical Association

Bishop Gary E. Stevenson  
Presiding Bishop  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Dr. L. Roy Taylor  
Stated Clerk  
Presbyterian Church in America

His Beatitude, The Most Blessed Tikhon  
Archbishop of Washington and Metropolitan of All America and Canada  
Orthodox Church in America

Dr. Joseph Tkach  
President  
Grace Communion International

Rev. Dr. David Wendel  
Assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Ecumenism  
North American Lutheran Church

Rev. Phillip Whipple  
Bishop  
United Brethren in Christ Church, USA

David P. Wilson  
General Secretary  
Church of the Nazarene

Rev. Paul Winter  
Elder Bruderhof Communities

Dr. George O. Wood  
General Superintendent  
Assemblies of God