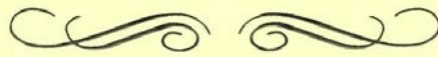


The Protection of Marriage: A Shared Commitment



Dear Friends,

Marriage is the permanent and faithful union of one man and one woman. As such, marriage is the natural basis of the family. Marriage is an institution fundamental to the well-being of all of society, not just religious communities.

As religious leaders across different faith communities, we join together and affirm our shared commitment to promote and protect marriage as the union of one man and one woman. We honor the unique love between husbands and wives; the indispensable place of fathers and mothers; and the corresponding rights and dignity of all children.

Marriage thus defined is a great good in itself, and it also serves the good of others and society in innumerable ways. The preservation of the unique meaning of marriage is not a special or limited interest but serves the good of all. Therefore, we invite and encourage all people, both within and beyond our faith communities, to stand with us in promoting and protecting marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Sincerely yours,

Leith Anderson

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National Association of Evangelicals

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Dr. Jo Anne Lyon

Dr. Jerry G. Pence

The Board of General Superintendents
The Wesleyan Church

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The Christian and Missionary Alliance

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Presiding Bishop
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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Bishop Harry Jackson

Senior Pastor, Hope Christian Church
Bishop, Fellowship of International Churches

The Most Blessed Jonah

Archbishop of Washington
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