

The Rev. Dr. Douglas E. Nielsen  
United Church of Christ

I write this note in support of LD 1020.

Since my ordination in 1977 I have performed literally hundreds of marriage ceremonies. They are holy times indeed! In 1985 I was asked to perform a “commitment ceremony” for a couple in Massachusetts where I was ministering. I was pleased to do so. Much later, I returned from Illinois to Massachusetts to legally marry that same couple. I was very pleased to do so. Over the years, I have been privileged to preside at many same sex wedding ceremonies, and in every case I was especially pleased to do so.

In a world that urgently needs all the love it can get; in a world where committed love is increasingly challenged; in a world such as ours, I firmly and faithfully believe that wherever love is present...there is God.

The same sex couples and families of my congregations have demonstrated again and again that the church’s role in supporting and celebrating their serious and faithful commitment is deeply helpful.

I will continue to work for a time when all God’s children will be equally able to celebrate the joys, experience the challenges, and accrue the rights and responsibilities of marriage. I believe LD 1020 moves us in that direction.

Blessings and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Douglas E. Nielsen