



**First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio
Resolution in Support of Same Sex Marriage
approved October 23, 2005**

WHEREAS Unitarian Universalists affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person;

WHEREAS Unitarian Universalists affirm justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

WHEREAS marriage has served many different functions throughout history, and civil marriage today is a respected legal status carrying with it many rights, benefits and responsibilities;

WHEREAS the state of Texas and many other states and the United States are acting to void the recognition of same-sex marriages and to deny "full faith and credit" to such marriages formalized in any state by amending state constitutions;

WHEREAS debate about extending legally recognized marriage to same-sex couples has focused on the objections of certain religious communities, and the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio, Texas supports separation of church and state;

WHEREAS the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio, Texas congregation voted in 2002 to become a Welcoming Congregation, taking on the commitment to promote justice, freedom and equality in the larger society, and to speak out when the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons are at risk; and

WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly, through action of its General Assembly and congregational actions has advocated for nondiscrimination and hate crimes legislation; our ministers have performed ceremonies of union for same-sex couples. The Association has supported non-

discrimination in ministerial employment since 1980; supported gay and lesbian services of union since 1984, supported legal equity for gays and lesbians since 1987, opposed legislation of discrimination against gays, lesbians, and bisexuals in 1992; and

WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly voted overwhelmingly to call for the legalization of same-sex marriages in 1996 building on a long-standing and deeply held commitment to support full equality for bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people, going back to 1970.

THEREFORE BE IT resolved that the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio, Texas adopts a position in support of legal recognition of marriage between members of the same sex on an equal basis with marriage between members of the opposite sexes; and

BE IT further resolved that the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio, Texas has identified this as a moral and ethical matter entirely consistent with liberal religious convictions; and

BE IT further resolved that the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio, Texas make this position known through the media, through denominational gatherings, through banners and signs and through all other appropriate means.