



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**REV. ROBERT HARDIES APPLAUDS CITY COUNCIL,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE  
*HISTORIC VOTE ADVANCES EQUAL RIGHTS,  
BRINGS MARRIAGE EQUALITY TO THE NATION'S CAPITAL***

**WASHINGTON, DC – TODAY**, Reverend Robert Hardies, Co-Chair of [DC Clergy United for Marriage Equality](#), Senior Pastor of [All Souls Church](#), Unitarian in Columbia Heights, and Standing on the Side of Love spokesman issued the following statement celebrating the final vote of the DC City Council to legalize same-gender marriage in the District of Columbia

**"Today's vote is an historic advance for justice in our nation's capital," said Rev. Hardies. "The broad support that this bill enjoyed amongst DC's Council and residents demonstrates that people of all faiths, races, and backgrounds believe in equal rights. Today DC stands united on the side of love."**

**"I and the nearly 200 DC clergy who supported this bill look forward to being able to celebrate the marriages of loving lesbian and gay couples in our houses of worship. As people of faith, we are proud to celebrate the love of all DC residents equally, just as God loves all of us equally."**

In a [letter published on the Standing on the Side of Love website](#), Hardies expressed his hope that Congress would respect the vote; he also called on all supporters of marriage equality to congratulate and thank the Council for their historic effort.

*Standing on the Side of Love is a campaign sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association and promotes respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We believe that no person of any immigrant status, race, religion, gender and sexual orientation, ability level, or political view should be dehumanized through acts of exclusion, oppression, or violence.*

*DC Clergy United for Marriage Equality is a coalition of nearly 200 religious leaders of many races, cultures, faiths, and from every Ward in the District of Columbia, who unite to affirm marriage equality for same-gender couples.*

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