

Unitarian Coastal Fellowship Statement of Conscience in Opposition to House Bill 2:

We, the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship of Morehead City, North Carolina, strongly recommend the repeal of NC House Bill 2. We are an intentionally diverse community, welcoming of and enriched by people of varying cultures, economic and ethnic backgrounds; by people of varying sexual orientations, gender identities and family compositions; by people of all races, ages, and beliefs.

As Unitarian Universalists we believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person and in justice, equity and compassion in human relations. Any attempt to legalize discrimination against any group violates these principles.

House Bill 2 legalizes discrimination against the LGBTQ community, limits a key path for resolution of employment discrimination for many North Carolina citizens, demeans and endangers the lives of transgender people, discriminates against the rights of families and local governments, and blemishes our state's reputation as a welcoming place.

We are in agreement with the Bishops of the Episcopal Dioceses of North Carolina who state, "This bill overtly discriminates against LGBT people and goes further by cutting back on protection against discrimination for anyone in the state."

HB 2 discriminates against families by limiting the ability of local governments to enact ordinances that would benefit their citizens at the local level such as increases in minimum wage, sick leave, and child labor laws.

Particularly onerous is Section 1 of the law, which deals with single-sex multiple occupancy bathrooms and changing facilities. The fact that numerous nationwide communities are finding acceptable resolutions of this issue raises the question of need for such a state law in the first place.

Although the North Carolina legislature's recent reinstatement of the right to redress discrimination through state courts is a step in the right direction, a reduction in the statute of limitations from 3 years to 1 year leaves an unreasonable impediment to justice.

Numerous cancellations and negative articles bear witness that HB 2 does not achieve its purpose to "attract new businesses, organizations and employers to the state," but rather blemishes our State's reputation as a welcoming place.

The Unitarian Coastal Fellowship joins with numerous and diverse North Carolina faith communities in condemning House Bill 2 and demanding the repeal of the bill in its entirety.