

THE CHANGING FACE OF MARRIAGE

2012

President Obama announces support for same-sex marriage. North Carolina adopts constitutional amendment for traditional marriage, the 31st state to affirm traditional marriage by popular vote.

Maine, Maryland and Washington are first states to enact same-sex marriage by popular vote, and Minnesota initiative for traditional marriage fails, ending streak of 31 states to affirm traditional marriage by vote of the people.

2014

U.S. Court of Appeals for Sixth Circuit (Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee) becomes first federal appellate court to uphold traditional marriage since Windsor decision.

Nguyen v. Holder: New York State Court of Appeals holds that an incestuous marriage between uncle and niece is valid.

2008

California becomes second state with same-sex marriage by decision of California Supreme Court. Presidential candidate Obama states that he opposes same-sex marriage, supports civil unions.

California voters approve Proposition 8, a state constitutional amendment reaffirming traditional marriage.

2003

Lawrence v. Texas: SCOTUS strikes down state laws against sodomy.

Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court finds constitutional right to same-sex marriage in Massachusetts.

2000

Vermont becomes first state to enact "civil union" law intended to create the legal equivalent of a marriage relationship but also affirms marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

1998

Hawaii voters pass constitutional amendment on marriage, the first of 31 states where traditional marriage was affirmed by popular vote.

1996

Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) passes U.S. House (342-67) and Senate (85-14) and is signed by President Clinton. Provides that states have right to define marriage and that for federal law purposes, marriage is between one man and one woman.

1986

Bowers v. Hardwick: SCOTUS upholds state laws against sodomy.

1970

Two men seek to obtain a marriage license in Minnesota. Minnesota Supreme Court unanimously rejects their lawsuit.

1962

Model penal code promulgated, decriminalizing most adult consensual sexual conduct. Though rarely enforced, prior state laws reflected societal ideals against adultery, etc.

2015

2009

Vermont becomes first state to create same-sex marriage by legislative action.

2004

First same-sex marriages in U.S., in Massachusetts.

2001

The Netherlands becomes first jurisdiction in the world with same-sex marriage.

1999

California becomes first state to enact "domestic partner" legislation, after several local jurisdictions adopt similar proposals.

1997

Louisiana creates "covenant marriage" that couples can choose, limiting basis for divorce. Arizona and Arkansas later adopt similar statutes.

1993

Hawaii Supreme Court rules in favor of plaintiffs seeking same-sex marriage but stays decision to allow voters to decide.

1972

Baker v. Nelson: U.S. Supreme Court (SCOTUS) refuses to consider Minnesota same-sex marriage claim for "want of a substantial federal question."

1969

California becomes first state to adopt "no-fault" divorce. Within 15 years, nearly all states have adopted similar laws.

2013

Brown v. Buhman: Utah federal court strikes down part of Utah's polygamy ban. Another Utah federal court invalidates Utah's marriage law, beginning a string of federal court decisions striking down traditional marriage laws.

LCMS in Convention passes Resolution 2-07A, "To emphasize Biblical Teaching of Sexuality, Marriage and Family," by vote of 901-40.

U.S. v. Windsor: SCOTUS strikes down DOMA provisions that defined marriage, for federal law purposes, as one man and one woman. *Hollingsworth v. Perry*: SCOTUS lets stand lower federal court ruling against California marriage law.

1960

Visit www.lcms.org/freetobefaitful to learn more about defending one-man/one-woman marriage.

