

March 28, 2019

Let this statement show that we, Christian pastors and religious leaders, support the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). We call on the Arizona Legislature to ratify the ERA immediately.

We endorse the ERA becoming the law of the land as a part of the US Constitution: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

We reject the fear-based idea that the ERA has anything to do with abortion. All of us want to see abortion rates fall and yet we fully support the ERA - they are different issues.

We reject the fear-based idea that the ERA will erase the differences between men and women. Humans can be distinct and yet be safe from discriminatory laws.

We reject the position that "the deadline has passed" - rather, we say: do what is right, now is the time!

We reject any hesitation to the ERA on Christian religious grounds. Rather, we uphold the biblical principle of the equality of all people: Galatians 3:28 says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

We reject the idea that we do not need the ERA because other laws already protect against sex discrimination. Rather, we hold that current laws are not strong enough and that the Constitution of the United States needs this amendment to guarantee all people equal protection - we need the ERA.

We reject the idea that this is a partisan issue. Rather, we insist that this is a common human issue. We represent a wide variety of Christian denomination, political parties, and voting tendencies. We put aside those (sometimes great) differences to support the ERA.

We call on the women and men of the Arizona House and Senate to break free from fear and partisanship. We call on you to stand. We call on you to do what is right. We call on you to help Arizona ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Sincerely Signed,

Rev. Dr. Matthew A Rundio
Pastor, Scottsdale First Church of the Nazarene
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[Please add your signature as a name, title, the church you serve, and the location of the church you serve]