

Defending Marriage in Virginia

by Patricia Phillips

The threat of legally recognized same sex unions, particularly using the name “marriage” concerns many people. Up until recently, many of those people had not seen a direct affront to their beliefs, and many were unaware of the efforts to defend traditional marriage in Virginia and the efforts to thwart those plans. The Virginia Marriage Amendment was passed by the General Assembly in 2005 and passed again by the General Assembly in 2006. Now, it goes to the general electorate as a constitutional amendment in November 2006.

Many people with whom you attend church do not know this and yet will be very interested to learn about the amendment and the process. CWA of Virginia has created a [multi-media video presentation](#) to explain the amendment in a church service or meeting as highlighted below.

CWA of Virginia has also created and started circulating a citizen petition to express support for the amendment to the Virginia Constitution. The [Marriage Petition](#) states the proposed marriage amendment and accomplishes 3 important goals in one step:

- 1-Educates people about the amendment
- 2-Asks people to act – to make a commitment in support of the amendment by signing the petition
- 3-Demonstrates broad support to legislators to counter homosexual activists who lobby against the amendment.

An ideal opportunity to circulate the petition is following the “What God Hath Joined Together” video presentation at church or a community meeting. However the petition can also be circulated independently of the video presentation. CWA members familiar with Election Day campaigning at polling places, are encouraged to recruit friends to help circulate the petition on Election Day.

Petitions should be returned to CWA of Virginia.

Action: Download the [Marriage Petition](#) and watch the [multi-media presentation](#). Show the presentation at your church and offer the petition to sign.