




2. I have been a Pastor of the Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church since January 1, 2007.
3. Before I met Mary in 1997, I was married to a man from 1972 to 1989. We had a son. As a married woman I understood that I was entitled to many benefits that flow from the status of being married.
4. In my domestic partnership with Mary, I lack many of the rights I formerly had when I was legally married.
5. Even though Mary and I have registered as domestic partners, this status does not entitle us to obtain social security death benefits, as married couples are permitted to do. Despite the fact that we both pay into the social security system, neither of us is entitled to death benefits based on the contributions of the other. If we were to terminate our domestic partnership, I understand that the divorce laws of Wisconsin do not apply. As a result, neither of us would be entitled to any form of support payments in the same way a married couple would.
6. I understand that the marital property law of the state of Wisconsin does not apply to Mary and me as domestic partners in the same way it applies to a married couple.
7. I understand that our status as domestic partners is only recognized in Wisconsin, whereas marriage (performed under the laws of the state of Wisconsin) is a status that is recognized in all states.
8. When I was married, I was able to visit with my husband whenever he was admitted to the hospital, and I was granted this right by virtue of my marital status. I could obtain visitation rights merely by saying, "I am his wife." However, when Mary became hospitalized a few years ago, it was not initially clear whether I was going to be able to visit her. I told the hospital administration employees that she was "my partner." Because this status is not the same as marriage, I was asked many more questions about the nature of our relationship before I was finally permitted to visit her in the hospital.
9. Marital status carries with it a much larger bundle of rights than the "domestic partner" status. By registering as Mary's domestic partner, I fully recognize that our status as domestic partners is distinct, separate and unique from the status of marriage.
10. I am a citizen of the State of Wisconsin, I pay taxes as a citizen, and follow the laws. Despite that, as a person in a domestic partnership, I am unable to attain many of the same rights that are available to married couples. Although Mary and I do not qualify for the majority of benefits available to people who are married, and although I believe that our domestic partnership does not get the same respect as a marriage, Mary and I would be harmed if the domestic partnership benefits were taken away from us. We would lose the official

recognition of our relationship, and the limited benefits it provides, such as the transfer of property if Mary should predecease me.

  
Wendy Woodruff

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 29 day of September, 2010.

  
Notary Public, State of Wisconsin  
My commission [is permanent/expires]

