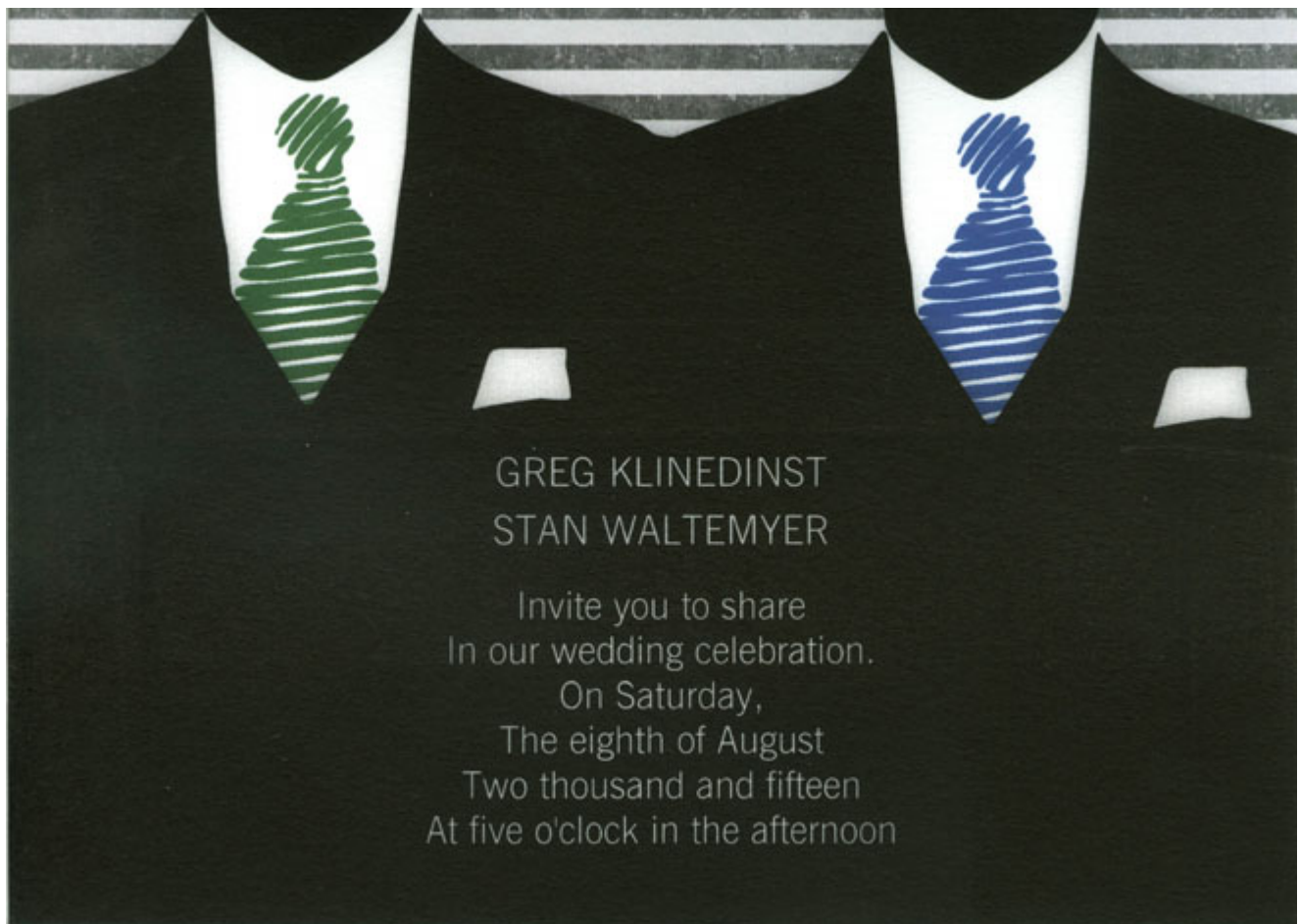


First Same-Sex Marriage Ceremony Performed in Chapel of the Holy Child



Gregory Stephen Klinedinst and Stanley Lee Waltemeyer were wed in the Chapel of the Holy Child on Saturday, August 8, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the company of close friends.



(from left to right) Rt. Rev. Gene Savoy Jr,
Stan Waltemeyer, Rev. Greg Klinedinst, and Rt.
Rev. Sean Savoy

The ceremony was performed by the Right Reverend Sean Savoy with Right Reverend Gene Savoy Jr. delivering the Nuptial Blessing. The Reverends Robert and Francine Petrovich acted as witnesses. A private reception followed.



(from left to right) Rev. Canon Robert Petrovich, Rev. Greg Klinedinst, Stan Waltemeyer, and Rev. Francine Petrovich

The event was both momentous and historic. Momentous because after 35 years of living together as a couple, Greg and Stan were able to marry formally and with all the benefits and responsibilities of marriage. Historic because the wedding ceremony was the first same-sex marriage to be performed in the Chapel of the Holy Child.

Rev. Sean Savoy took a few moments to explain the special nature of the event before performing the ceremony, beginning with a citation of statements made recently on the right of same-sex marriage by Anthony Kennedy, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States of America:

"The right to marry is fundamental as a matter of history and tradition, but rights come not from ancient sources alone. They rise, too, from a better informed understanding of how constitutional imperatives define a liberty that remains urgent in our own era."

And on the plight of individuals who are part of same-sex couples:

“Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization’s oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right.”

Rev. Savoy continued by introducing and then citing statements made by retired federal judge Vaughn Walker, on the legalization of same-sex marriage in the state of California:

“Marriage is the . . . recognition and approval of a couple’s choice to live with each other, to remain committed to one another and to form a household based on their own feelings about one another and to join in an economic partnership and support one another and any dependents. . . .

The right to marry has been historically and remains the right to choose a spouse and, with mutual consent, join together and form a household. Race and gender restrictions shaped marriage during eras of race and gender inequality, but such restrictions were never part of the historical core of the institution of marriage. Today, gender is not relevant to the state in determining spouses’ obligations to each other and to their dependents. Relative gender composition aside, same-sex couples are situated identically to opposite-sex couples in terms of their ability to perform the rights and obligations of marriage under . . . law. Gender no longer forms an essential part of marriage; marriage under law is a union of equals. . . .

They seek the mutual obligation and honor that attend marriage . . . seek recognition from the state that their union is ‘a coming together for better or for worse, hopefully enduring, and intimate to the degree of being

sacred.'”



Rev. Greg Klinedinst and Stan Waltemeyer in front of the Chapel entrance following their marriage