



Kansas-Oklahoma Conference
United Church of Christ
Justice & Witness Commission

Rev. Lizette Merchan – Co-chair Justice & Witness Commission
Pastor Chris Moore – Co-chair Justice & Witness Commission
Rev. Dr. Kathy McCallie – President, Kansas-Oklahoma Conference UCC
Rev. Gordon Epps – Conference Representative, K-O Conference
Karen Spradlin – Justice & Witness Organizer, K-O Conference

www.uccjustice.org

February 13, 2009

Speaker of the House,

And each of those voting against putting the remarks of the Rev. Dr. Scott Jones, Cathedral of Hope, UCC, in the House journal:

Reps. Gus Blackwell, R-Goodwell;
Mike Christian, R-Oklahoma City;
Ann Coody, R-Lawton;
Rex Duncan, R-Sand Springs;
John Enns, R-Enid;
George Faught, R-Muskogee;
Dennis Johnson, R-Kingfisher;
Sally Kern, R-Oklahoma City;
Charles Key, R-Oklahoma City;
Guy Liebmann, R-Oklahoma City;
Lewis Moore, R-Arcadia;
Jason Murphey, R-Guthrie;
Leslie Osborn, R-Tuttle;
Pat Ownbey, R-Ardmore;
Mike Reynolds, R-Oklahoma City;
Mike Ritze, R-Broken Arrow;
Mike Sanders, R-Kingfisher;
Randy Terrill, R-Moore;
Todd Thomsen, R-Ada;
John Wright, R-Broken Arrow.

Clergy and supporting organizations held a press conference today on the fourth floor of the capitol rotunda to call for an apology from each of the twenty legislators who voted to exclude Rev. Dr. Scott Jones' prayer last Tuesday.

The Justice & Witness Commission of the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ organized the press conference to express their outrage at this sort of treatment of not only a fellow UCC clergyperson, but a clergyperson in general. This is a clear violation of all standards of decency and freedom of expression. This action has the potential for setting

precedent to make moral judgment about the chaplain of the day and to disregard freedom of expression, freedom of religion and separation of church and state.

Speaking from the United Church of Christ were: Moderator Rev. Loyce Newton-Edwards, Church of the Open Arms; Rev. Dr. Kathy McCallie, Church of the Open Arms; Rev. Dr Robin Meyers, Mayflower Congregational Church; Pastor Chris Moore, Norman UCC. Rabbi Russell Fox, Immanuel Synagogue Oklahoma City also offered words of support.

A complete packet of letters of support has been delivered to The Speaker of the House. Letters of support for Rev. Dr. Scott Jones have come from the following:

Rev. Dr. John T. Thomas, President & General Minister of the United Church of Christ
Office of the Moderator of Metropolitan Community Churches, Reverend Elder Nancy Wilson
Community of Hope, United Church of Christ, Rev. Lizette Merchan-Pinilla
Oklahoma Chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Mike Miller
Kansas Oklahoma Conference of Churches, Rev. Dr. Gordon Epps, Conference Ministry
Coordinator
Cimarron Alliance Foundation, Richard Ogden
Religious Institute on Sexual Morality, Justice & Healing
Oklahomans for Equality, Matt Warren
PFLAG Norman, Kay Hamm

Responses can be sent to: Chris Moore, Co-Chair Justice & Witness Commission:
ckiamore@cox.net or 221 E 12th Edmond, OK 73034

Sincerely,

Chris Moore
Justice & Witness Commission
Kansas/Oklahoma Conference United Church of Christ