

## Wider Context of the Trial of Rev. Amy DeLong

Since the last trial in the United Methodist Church regarding Holy Unions or LGBT partnership the following changes have happened:

- 2004 - **United Methodist Church trial of Rev. Beth Stroud**
  - Maine approves Domestic Partnerships
  - New Jersey approves Domestic Partnerships
  - Massachusetts approves same-sex marriage
  
- 2007 - New Jersey approves Civil Unions
  
- 2008 - Maryland approves Domestic Partnerships
  - Oregon approves Domestic Partnerships
  - Connecticut approves same-sex marriage
  
- 2009 - **Episcopal Church opens all levels of ordained ministry to gay clergy**
  - The Episcopal Church affirms sacred unions of gay and lesbian people are to be blessed and enfolded into liturgical patterns in the same way that the sacred unions of heterosexual people have been honored for centuries
  - **ELCA opens the ministry of the church to gay and lesbian pastors and other professional workers living in committed relationships.**
  - Colorado approves Domestic Partnerships
  - Nevada approves Domestic Partnerships
  - Wisconsin approves Domestic Partnerships
  - Washington approves Domestic Partnerships by state referendum
  - Vermont approves same-sex marriage
  - Iowa approves same-sex marriage
  
- 2010 - **Episcopal Church consecrated 2nd openly gay bishop**
  - Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the military
  - District of Columbia approves full marriage for same-sex partners
  - New Hampshire approves same-sex marriage
  
- 2011 - **Presbyterian Church USA changes its constitution to allow openly gay people in same-sex relationships to be ordained as ministers, elders and deacons.**
  - Defense of Marriage Act determined to be unconstitutional and the Justice Department will not further defend the law in court.
  - United Nations passed a resolution supporting equal rights for all, regardless of sexual orientation.
  - Illinois approves Civil Unions
  - Delaware approves Civil Unions
  - Hawaii approves Civil Unions
  - **United Methodist Church trial of Rev. Amy DeLong**
  - New York approves same-sex marriage