

Every month since February 1987 the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has produced one-hour TV programs on issues related to peace, social justice, economics, the environment, and nonviolence.

The Olympia FOR's program airs several times every week for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers. You can see TCTV's schedule at www.tctv.net.

You can also watch the program described below (and more than 90 of our previous interview programs and special programs at the Olympia FOR's website, www.olympiafor.org. Simply click the TV programs link to reach www.olympiafor.org/tv_programs.htm, scroll down, and click the program you want to watch.

Many of our website's TV program listings also include a .pdf document describing the program.

MARCH 2010

“PROTECT THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE”

by GLEN ANDERSON, PRODUCER AND HOST OF THIS TV SERIES

The US Constitution's First Amendment protects Americans from governmental bias in religious matters. The government must not provide overt or covert support for any particular religion.

Also, in the US, a person is free to believe in any religion – or in none – without discrimination. This basic civil right has been protected by other constitutional amendments and by civil rights laws.

But there are always some people – inside and outside of the government – at federal, state and local levels – who want to use the government's power and taxpayers' dollars to support their particular religion or to oppose other people's religions.

Since 1947 a nonprofit organization – Americans United for the Separation of Church and State – has focused exclusively on preventing those abuses and protecting the separation of Church and State. Americans United educates the general public and public officials about these matters. AU also takes legal action when necessary. Its track record is truly impressive.

AU is non-sectarian and non-partisan. Its members include people of a very wide variety of religious faiths, secular humanists, agnostics, atheists, and people from a wide range across the political spectrum. It is neither “liberal” nor “conservative.” It protects our constitutional rights.

Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and other founders were adamant that these rights must be protected and that there must be what Jefferson called a “wall of separation” between government and religion. This protects the general public and taxpayers and our nation's freedom from religious intrusion. It also protects religious freedom from governmental intrusion. It is a “win-win” for everyone who values freedom.

In the summer of 2007 a local group was formed to carry out this mission in the greater Thurston County area. Some national staff members provided a full day of training and nurtured the local group into existence. The group meets monthly, typically at 6:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month at the Olympia Unitarian-Universalist Congregation, 2300 East End Street NW.

Our guests – Dennis Mansker, Kent Underwood, and Eric Quist – are members of the local AU group.

For more information contact Dennis at 786-9584 dmansker@comcast.net or Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, 518 C Street NE, Washington DC 20002 (202) 466-3234 americansunited@au.org or www.au.org