

Community of Christ

2010 World Conference Legislation

World Church leaders acknowledge that the following resolutions may cause individuals and groups pain and frustration because of differences in their personal, scriptural, theological, legal, and sacramental perspectives. As an international community of faith, this issue is further complicated by the diverse customs and languages of our members.

As the body of Christ, it is imperative that the church approaches these legislative issues with great care, understanding, and sensitivity to the voices and perspectives of members throughout the world. As an international church represented in nearly fifty nations, it is important that we learn to talk about divisive issues without separating from the body.

We have been counseled as a church to “Listen together to one another, without judgment or predisposition. Do not assume that the answers to matters of conflict have yet been perceived. There is much labor to be done. Reason together in love, and the Spirit of truth will prevail” (Doctrine and Covenants 162:5c).

While the church seeks agreement or common consent in important matters, we must commit to ongoing dialogue and lovingly upholding our common faith in Jesus Christ and the mission of the church.

G-7 POLICY ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

From Gulf USA Mission Center

Whereas, Policy within Community of Christ is not dictated by societal trends, but by adherence to scriptural instruction; and,

Whereas, Community of Christ has been instructed in Doctrine and Covenants 163:3b to “Courageously challenge cultural, political, and religious trends that are contrary to the reconciling and restoring purpose of God;” and

Whereas, The letter by First Presidency dated May 22, 2009, addressed the church’s policies and procedures and stated that no language in the guiding documents, referenced therein, provides for same-sex marriage; and

Whereas, This letter made clear that Community of Christ priesthood members are not authorized by the church to officiate in same-sex marriages, even where it is legal to do so; and,

Whereas, Due to the mobile nature of the world’s populations and the close fellowship among the various cultures and nations within the church’s membership, implementation of a regional approach to

resolving this issue would prove difficult and divisive, and contribute to continued confusion among the membership and the general population; and,

Whereas, The church was encouraged by the Presiding Evangelist, under the “prompting of the Spirit,” on April 3, 2004 (2004 World Conference), that “the time has come when the church must forsake deadlines that anticipate resolution of this question at each emerging World Conference and allow God to bless the church in God’s own way, in God’s own time;” therefore, be it

Resolved, That all legislation regarding the issue of same-sex marriage, be referred without prejudice to the First Presidency so as to not hinder or limit the continuing dialogue on this issue within the church; and, be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency develop strategies that will lead to more effective widespread dialogue throughout the church on the issue of same-sex marriage.

G-8 POLICY ON ORDINATION OF HOMOSEXUALS

From Gulf USA Mission Center

Whereas, The Community of Christ Standing High Council issued a Statement on Homosexuality, dated March 18, 1982; and,

Whereas, This statement affirms the worth of all persons and also requires the full acceptance of individuals with homosexual orientation into the life of the church; and

Whereas, This statement recognizes that both heterosexual and homosexual persons, both priesthood and among the general membership, are called to adhere to high moral standards regarding sexual activity; and

Whereas, This statement allows individuals who define themselves as homosexual, and abstain from homosexual acts, an opportunity to respond to God's call to ordination in Community of Christ; and,

Whereas, The World Church Leadership Council (September 2002) issued a statement entitled “Community, Common Consent, and the Issue of Homosexuality,” reaffirming the 1982 guidelines regarding calling and ordination; and,

Whereas, The church has been encouraged by Presiding Evangelist Danny Belrose on April 3, 2004 (2004 World Conference), under the “prompting of the Spirit” that “the time has come when the church must forsake deadlines that anticipate resolution of this question at each emerging World Conference and allow God to bless the church in God’s own way, in God’s own time;” and,

Whereas, The 2007 Committee on Homosexuality and the Church report includes statistics and analysis that indicate listening circles have not been well received across the church; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the First Presidency continue to develop new strategies that will lead to more effective widespread dialogue throughout the church; and, be it further

Resolved, That all legislation regarding the issue of homosexuality as it relates to ordination, be referred without prejudice to the First Presidency so as to not hinder or limit the continuing dialogue on this issue within the church.