

Inclusion in the Sacraments

Whereas, World Conference is the chief legislative body of the Community of Christ; and

Whereas, None of the current policies and procedures governing the sacraments of the church and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) persons have been approved by World Conference; and

Whereas, The current policies and procedures are based on outdated traditions, fear, and prejudice, and not on the love and acceptance of the marginalized as revealed in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, The current policies and procedures have caused and continue to cause our homosexual brothers and sisters to feel unwelcome, devalued, and shamed; and many have left the church to find welcome and acceptance in other denominations; and

Whereas, The loss of these individuals deprives the Church of their unique witness, ministry and gifts, making our community poorer by their absence; and

Whereas, The “Enduring Principles” of the Church affirm, “We generously share our witness, resources, ministries, and sacraments according to our true capacity” and “We seek to uphold and restore the worth of all people individually and in community, challenging unjust systems that diminish human worth”; and

Whereas, WCR 1226 states, “human beings often fear, hate, and abuse each other because of ignorance about such factors as socioeconomic status, culture, race, gender, age, size, sexual orientation, and mental or physical disability. Such prejudicial behavior undermines the personal and spiritual development of both abuser and abused, and denies the mutual benefits of shared giftedness;” and

Whereas, Doctrine and Covenants 119:8b states that “All are called according to the gifts of God unto them...”; and

Whereas, The Church has been instructed (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 Church is further instructed (Doctrine and Covenants 163:7c) that “It is not pleasing to God when any passage of scripture is used to diminish or oppress races, genders, or classes of human beings. Much physical and emotional violence has been done to some of God’s beloved children through the misuse of scripture. The church is called to confess and repent of such attitudes and practices;” therefore be it

Resolved, That the Sacraments of the Church shall be shared by all without regard to socioeconomic status, culture, race, gender, age (appropriate to local circumstances,

traditions, and scriptural requirements), size, sexual orientation, gender identity, and mental or physical disability; and be it further

Resolved, That all current policies and procedures which tend to marginalize or discriminate against such persons are hereby set aside.