

Full Inclusion

Whereas, Christianity's traditionally hostile view towards homosexuals and homosexual behavior has been a source of inhospitality, causing our homosexual brothers and sisters not only to feel unwelcome, but also devalued, invisible, and shamed; and many have left our fellowship; and the loss of these individuals deprives us of their unique witness, ministry, and gifts, making our community poorer by their absence; and

Whereas, We find that the few passages of scripture that suggest that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian life reflect a cultural setting that did not understand homosexuality rather than speaking the truth of the gospel; and the overwhelming witness of scripture is that God's love is universal and is showered on each person without regard to sexual orientation; and

Whereas, The Community of Christ has never taught that the scriptures are inerrant nor that they should be interpreted literally; 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, We recognize the need in the lives of many homosexuals for the ministry of the gospel, as well as the need of the church for the ministry of homosexuals; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the church affirms that homosexual, bisexual, and transgendered persons are fully welcome in our fellowship; and be it further

Resolved, That, where culturally acceptable, jurisdictions of the church are encouraged to publish the following or similar statement in appropriate media such as weekly bulletins, on posters, etc.:

The Community of Christ values diversity and celebrates differences as part of God's creation. We welcome and include persons from a variety of family structures, without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity.

and be it further

Resolved, That, where culturally acceptable, leaders are encouraged to contact homosexual, bisexual, and transgendered church members who have been inactive and invite them to return.