

Policy on Priesthood

Whereas, The Community of Christ is an international denomination providing ministry in diverse cultures and ethnic backgrounds in many nations of the world; and

Whereas, All are called according to the gifts of God unto them; and

Whereas, The scriptural standard for calls to the priesthood is to be called of God and accepted by the people; and all other standards are cultural in nature and tend to vary from one culture to the next; and

Whereas, There is no record of Jesus giving any specific instruction about sexual orientation, but Jesus did instruct us to love one another, and in both word and action taught us to embrace marginalized persons; and

Whereas, The current world church policy on sexual orientation with regards to priesthood ministry is inconsistent with World Conference Resolution 1226, which states that "'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, gender identity, 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"; therefore be it

Resolved, That this conference affirm that the fundamental requirement for one to be called to priesthood office is that he or she be called by one having appropriate administrative authority and approved by the sustaining vote of the proper jurisdictional conference or business meeting; and, be it further

Resolved, That it is the sense of this World Conference that the Standing High Council Statement on Homosexuality (March 18, 1982), and the World Church Leadership Council document "Community, Common Consent, and the Issue of Homosexuality" (October 2002) which restrict the ordination of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) members should be rescinded by those bodies responsible to do so; and, be it further

Resolved, That calls for priesthood for LGBT members should be processed through the normal procedures, and be it further

Resolved, That when appropriate calls to LGBT persons are approved through normal administrative and legislative channels, jurisdictions are encouraged to welcome those called as priesthood members, but in no way does this mandate priesthood calls for LGBT members in those jurisdictions where culture and understanding inhibit, or the law prohibits homosexuals from full participation.