

**TOGETHER in**  
**CHRIST**



**A JOURNEY OF FAITH**  

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**2013 USA National Conference**

# DELEGATE PREPARATION AND TRAINING

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# Basic Provisions of Current Policies

- The sacrament of marriage is for one man and one woman who become husband and wife.
- Community of Christ priesthood members are not authorized to perform same sex/gender marriages even if they are legal in the civil jurisdiction where the marriage will be performed.
- People of same-sex orientation can be considered for priesthood calls if they are celibate.

# Purpose of the 2013 USA National Conference

- The purpose of the 2013 USA National Conference is for the delegates to provide recommendations to the Council of Twelve Apostles and First Presidency regarding two pressing policy issues:
  - Same-sex/gender marriage where legal and covenant commitment services where marriage is not legal.
  - Ordination of people regardless of sexual orientation, including a person in a monogamous, committed, same-sex/gender relationship .

# Two Statements Being Considered

- The sacrament of marriage may be extended, where legal, to persons of the same sex/gender. In places where this is not legal, a church-recognized way for two persons of the same sex/gender to publicly express their covenant to each other will be made available.
- A priesthood call may be processed according to established procedures regardless of sexual orientation, including a person in a monogamous, committed, same-sex/gender relationship (e.g., legal marriage, civil partnership, covenant relationship).

# What's Next?

- Recommendations by national conferences affect policies only within the nation hosting the conference.
  - *Decisions for Canada and Australia have no bearing on outcomes for the USA National Conference.*
- No national conference recommendations require approval by a World Conference before implementation.

# What's Next in the USA?

- The Council of Twelve Apostles and First Presidency will develop policy that reflects the recommendations of the 2013 USA National Conference if a change is recommended for either or both topics. It also means they will continue with the basic provisions of current policies for either or both issues if that is the recommendation of the conference.

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