

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-24 Structural Support for a Mission of Holistic Ministry

From the Northwest of South America Mission Center:

Whereas, In the scriptures, in Doctrine and Covenants Section 163, we are admonished to respond to the call to see in a new way the perplexing problems of poverty, illness, war, mistreatment of people, and unnecessary suffering, and that such conditions are not God’s will; and

Whereas, The vision of Section 163 is a vision of holistic ministry; and

Whereas, Even though Community of Christ has systems and mechanisms in place to gather funds to help alleviate social and economic inequality in the communities of the world, there are still people of the world in various places who have gone unnoticed and live with the consequences; and

Whereas, Many countries where Community of Christ is established around the world have still not benefited from the extended hand of church Oblation monies administered through the Tangible Love Fund and World Hunger Fund; and

Whereas, Human development projects always need to be audited by people close to the grassroots where the projects are taking place; and

Whereas, Budgets that had been supporting holistic ministry projects have been reduced or cut; and

Whereas, In the context of budget cuts and always seeking good management and accountability, projects should always seek sustainability through holistic ministry; and

Whereas, Local organizations in various countries that are part of mission centers generate their own funds without outside resources; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Conference recommends that the committee or committees administering Tangible Love and World Hunger funds, in cases where projects are to be supported in countries where Community of Christ is operating that those projects always require the support of the corresponding field officers as they collaborate with church members at the grassroots; and be it further

Resolved, That this Conference recommends that this same committee or committees give preference in allocating funds to organizations affiliated with Community of Christ that are in line with the effort of the church to provide holistic ministry and according to the rules of the World Hunger and Tangible Love Funds; and be it further

Resolved, That this Conference recommends that mission centers put in place necessary structures, such as a coordinator for holistic ministry, oversight committee, and training programs for this coordinator, committee, and for field officers to allow them to better oversee human development projects located within their mission center; and be it further

Resolved, That this Conference recommends that the committee or committees administering Tangible Love and World Hunger funds also make funds available to support leadership training within mission centers on holistic ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That this Conference recommends that the committee or committees administering the Tangible Love and World Hunger funds consider forming Tangible Love and/or World Hunger funds at the apostolic field or mission center levels so that the distribution of these funds may be managed closer to the grassroots where the funds are being used.

G-25 Same-gender Marriage and Commitment Ceremonies

From the Florida USA Mission Center:

Whereas, Community of Christ is an international faith community providing ministry to diverse cultures and ethnicities around the world; and

Whereas, Marriage customs, traditions, and legal requirements vary throughout the world; and

Whereas, Marriage is a sacred covenant between God and a couple seeking to make a lifelong commitment of mutual support, love, and faithfulness in which the church participates with sanction, blessing, support, and guidance; and

Whereas, Marriage is the only sacrament of the church where traditionally the laws of the land determine who may or may not receive it; and

Whereas, Same-gender couples who desire to make a binding covenant to each other with the church's blessing are unable to do so; therefore be it

Resolved, That this World Conference affirms the worth of long-term, monogamous relationships, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity; and be it further

Resolved, That this World Conference hereby authorizes Aaronic priests and members of the Melchisedec priesthood to officiate over the marriage of same-gender adult couples where such is allowed by law; and be it further

Resolved, That this World Conference hereby authorizes Aaronic priests and members of the Melchisedec priesthood to officiate over commitment ceremonies for same-gender adult couples in places where same-gender marriage is not currently allowed by law; and be it further

Resolved, That this World Conference hereby amends WCR 1182, removing gender as a criteria for determining who can participate in the sacrament of marriage; and be it further

Resolved, That this World Conference recognizes that Community of Christ leaders have the latitude to discern how and when to implement this resolution in nations where homosexuality is considered a crime or church members may face harm if found with materials discussing homosexual issues.

G-26 Giftedness, Diversity, and Priesthood

From the Florida USA Mission Center:

Whereas, Community of Christ is an international faith community providing ministry to diverse cultures and ethnicities around the world; and

Whereas, The gospel of Jesus Christ proclaims that all persons are of equal worth in the sight of God; and

Whereas, The 1982 Standing High Council statement concerning homosexual persons was drafted by a council of limited ethnic and cultural diversity not fully representative of the larger church of today; and

Whereas, Much has been learned from medical, social, and psychological fields of study concerning the nature of sexual orientation and gender identities in the past 25 years; and

Whereas, WCR 1226, adopted by common consent, 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, Community of Christ is instructed in 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 misuse of scripture. The church is called to confess and repent of such attitudes and practices;” now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this World Conference affirms that homosexuality is not a sin which disqualifies people from fully sharing their gifts within Community of Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That this World Conference affirms its belief that God calls people to priesthood offices according to their gifts, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity; and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ will no longer use sexual orientation or gender identity to disqualify those with calls to priesthood which have been approved through the proper channels in their jurisdiction; and be it further

Resolved, That this World Conference recognizes that Community of Christ leaders have the latitude to discern how and when to implement this resolution in nations where homosexuality is considered a crime or church members may face harm if found with materials discussing homosexual issues.