

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-9 RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

From the Rocky Mountain USA Mission Center:

Whereas, There have been many attempts on resolutions to the World Conference for and against homosexuality, and

Whereas, Homosexuality remains a controversial issue in the world and within Community of Christ, and

Whereas, Reports have been given over the years to help the worldwide body of Community of Christ to deal with the issue of full inclusion of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) persons within Community of Christ, and

Whereas, We are committed to being a worldwide church—loving, respecting, and appreciating theological, cultural, and socioeconomic differences, and

Whereas, On December 18, 2008, the first declaration on gay rights was presented to the United Nations General Assembly declaring that “we reaffirm the principal of nondiscrimination

which requires that human rights apply equally to every human being regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity,” and

Whereas, Community of Christ has a presence in many nations and cultures where homosexuality is not a barrier to equal rights, therefore be it

Resolved, That we address global homosexuality as an issue primarily from a human rights perspective. Be it further

Resolved, That we take courageous steps to be in the forefront of those organizations which are helping to bring to bear just solutions to human rights violations for GLBT persons in the world. Be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ answer its calling as a prophetic church, and that leaders act courageously and with spiritual insights, seeking resolution to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against GLBT persons. Be it further

Resolved, It is the sense of this Conference that full inclusion of GLBT persons in the life of Community of Christ be allowed where accepted in nations, states and territories, and Community of Christ congregations. Be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency be encouraged to actively support programs to help congregations become more welcoming and more effective in resisting discrimination in all forms, including those against GLBT persons.

G-10 HUMAN TRAFFICKING

From the Human Rights Team:

Whereas, Human trafficking, a form of modern slavery taking place in all countries with at least 13 million victims at any time trapped in degrading, dangerous enslavement, is an international industry producing such large profits that it is conservatively the third largest illegal enterprise in the world, beginning to eclipse drug trafficking as a source of income for organized crime; and

Whereas, Human trafficking is destructive to individuals, families, and communities and is fundamentally incompatible with the life given to us by our loving Creator; and

Whereas, Our Eternal Creator weeps for and with those so enslaved and desires for us to act individually and as a church with a worldwide presence through individual and corporate efforts to confront and abolish slavery and end human trafficking; therefore, be it

Resolved, That members of Community of Christ, in organized groups or as a part of their individual stewardship, investigate what resources exist in their area to help them fight slavery and assist victims, and participate in those activities as appropriate given local considerations. Such activities might include participation in

- Rescue and Restore Coalitions (in the United States);
- groups such as Fight the Traffik, Polaris Project, Not for Sale, and the International Organization for Migration;
- gathering supplies for basic needs like food preparation, toiletries, and basic housekeeping to offer to freed victims through rescue groups;
- sponsoring community training on victim recognition;
- organizing and hosting movies, book clubs, or journal reading to sensitize and educate church members and community members; and be it further

Resolved, That the Human Rights Team identify and recommend resources to assist local congregations and mission centers to advocate for victims, assist with efforts to rescue and restore victims, and prosecute traffickers, and to participate in other appropriate ways to dismantle and abolish this modern day slavery.