

## **A Position Statement Concerning; ELCIC Resolution on Same-Sex Blessing.**

We have read many of the papers posted on the ELCIC, Solid Ground and ELCA websites concerning homosexuality and the doctrines and practices of the ELC as they pertain to actively practicing homosexuals. After prayerful consideration we conclude that the proposed resolution authorizing the blessing of committed long term same-sex unions should be defeated.

The ELCIC is a confessional church upholding Scripture as the only source of the Church's doctrine and the authoritative standard for the faith and life of the Church. The burden of responsibility for providing the necessary Scriptural basis for any proposed change in doctrine and practice falls upon those presenting the proposal. The presiding Bishop and the NCC have failed to do so and are abdicating their responsibility in this regard by proposing that the National Worship Committee develop a provisional rite [and presumably find and enunciate the scriptural basis] for the blessing of a committed same-sex union.

Homosexuality is condemned in Scripture. Sociological study does not provide evidence that the choice of a homosexual life style is either appropriate or beneficial to the individual or to society as a whole. Biological sciences do not provide conclusive evidence of a genetic nor other physiological basis for the development of homosexuality. The choice of a homosexual lifestyle is multifactor in origin. Though homoerotic urges may arise spontaneously and are felt with varying degrees of intensity by many, each of us is responsible for our own choice of conduct and for the consequences of our behavior. We are all sinners and many people struggle with a variety of very strong and sinful impulses and temptations that may be difficult to resist. However, that does not justify condoning or blessing behavior that may be attractive or seem overwhelmingly difficult to resist. Rather than condoning sin, it would be far better to seek to understand and accept those who struggle with intense, sinful urges and find more effective ways to minister to them in order that, by the Grace of God, they acknowledge sin, accept forgiveness and come to rely upon the Holy Spirit to provide the strength to forsake sin and lead a holy life. Surely that is how Jesus taught us to deal with all sinners.

The Scripturally based doctrines and historic practices of the Christian Church are sufficiently clear, homosexuality is sin. Therefore it would seem wrong to continue seeking to justify the blessing of homosexual relationships and the ordination of a person who is actively participating in a homosexual relationship. We believe it is wrong for the leaders of our Church to bow to the demands from misguided pressure groups or popular and often transient secular practices rather than continuing to base Church doctrine and practice upon the teachings of Scripture.

May God continue to grant His wisdom & understanding to the leaders of our Church. We give thanks for the leadership of Bishop Steve Kristenson & the many other pastors who continue to speak out in affirming the Scriptural based doctrines & practices of the Church. May the Holy Spirit guide our convention leaders and delegates in all decisions and actions in order that God's will be done.

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