MissionNorthwest

Resourcing and developing churches that connect people with Jesus Christ

Resolution on Human Sexuality

(Adopted as Region Policy November 2003)

Because we are all wounded and broken people in need of the healing power of God's grace in Christ Jesus, and being aware of the confusion of voices pertaining to human sexuality, the following statement defines our common understanding for sexual behavior.

Because we affirm the Bible as our rule for faith and practice and embrace its ethic of compassion, love, and ministry to all persons and the availability of God's grace through repentance (Luke 5:30-32, John 8:1-11, 1 Corinthians 6:11);

We affirm that God's gracious creation intent for human sexual conduct as defined in scripture is faithful, lifelong heterosexual union for married persons and committed celibate behavior for unmarried persons. All other sexual practices are clearly defined as sinful and destructive of individuals, of community, and of the fellowship of believers, and like all sin, call for repentance, openness to the transforming power of God, and restoration to the community of faith. (Genesis 1:27, 2:24, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, Hebrews 13:4); (Leviticus 18:22, 20:13, Romans 1:18-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

We affirm the existing Region policy "against violence of all kinds, including against persons of all sexual orientations." (Policy adopted by the Regional Board, Mission Northwest, October 30, 1998)

Therefore, we resolve that this Region will encourage grace-motivated ministries which respond to human need and offer God's transforming love to all wounded and broken people, including heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, and transgendered persons.

Acknowledging the high calling of church and Region leadership, we resolve that this Region will not recognize for ordination or recognize the preexisting license or ordination of any person practicing, affirming, endorsing, and/or celebrating adultery, fornication, gay/lesbian/bisexual behavior, or any other practices that are contrary to God's creation intent as defined above.

And finally, because of our commitment to do mission together, we resolve that any church within this Region that endorses, celebrates, or affirms adultery, fornication, gay/lesbian/bisexual behavior, is choosing not to cooperate in the work and mission of Mission Northwest. That church will be indicating their choice to sever their relationship with Mission Northwest (Article 3 Section 3, 3.2(a)).