

Supplement to News Briefs 3/3

Suggested Wording: "Sexuality" Resolution to the General Council Executive

If Pastoral Charges wish to act on this, they have two options. One is to follow the normal petition process, as with the first of the resolutions at the bottom of the page, while the second resolution is phrased as a "request". We have been advised that the latter is a viable option, and it indeed may be preferable, since it bypasses Presbytery and goes directly to the Executive. One could do both.

Whereas the 37th General Council resolved that it "renounce the 1960 statement that homosexuality is a sin; and encourages courts, congregations, and members to learn ways to offer healing for the damage inadvertently caused by the historic stance of our church to homosexuality;" that "lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered as well as heterosexual orientations are gifts from God, part of the marvelous diversity of creation;" that it "affirm lesbian and gay partnerships, recognize them in church documentation and services of blessing, and actively work for their civil recognition;" and that the DMC "find new and creative ways to encourage congregations of the United church to enter into the affirming congregation study process;"

Whereas the Membership, Ministry and Human Sexuality (MMHS) statement of the 1888 General Council was ruled by the Executive Secretary Howard Mills to effect no change;

Whereas the 37th General Council has clearly made a change in doctrine, renouncing the 1960 doctrine about sin;

Whereas the Basis of Union 8.6.2 (1) states that the General Council shall have full power "to legislate matters respecting the doctrine, worship, membership and government of the Church, subject to the following conditions: First, that before any rule or law relative to these matters can become a permanent law, it must receive the approval of a majority the Presbyteries, and, if advisable, Pastoral Charges also . . .";

(1) THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that XXXXX Pastoral Charge petition the General Council Executive, through YYYYY Presbytery and ZZZZ Conference or its Executive to submit the resolutions on homosexuality, bisexuality and transgendered sexuality passed by the 37th. General Council to the presbyteries and pastoral charges by way of a Remit, on the grounds that the action taken has contravened the Basis of Union, Articles XX, VII, I and XIV."

(2) THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that XXXXX Pastoral Charge request the General Council Executive to submit the resolutions on homosexuality, bisexuality and transgendered sexuality passed by the 37th. General Council to the presbyteries and pastoral charges by way of a Remit, on the grounds that the action taken has contravened the Basis of Union, Articles XX, VII, I and XIV."