

HUMAN SEXUALITY AND ORDINATION

[Adopted by the Executive Council, United Church of Christ, Omaha, Nebraska, October 28-31, 1973]

The Executive Council, recognizing that Associations have final responsibility for ordination and standing and acknowledging that such responsibility must be exercised within the context of a clear understanding of the theology of ordination,

- A. Recommends that congregations, Associations and Conferences initiate programs of study and dialogue with regard to the implications (meanings) of human sexuality, in all its mystery, at its broadest and deepest levels in the theological context.
- B. Directs the Council for Church and Ministry, and its successor body, to continue its study of the relationship between ordination and human sexuality in consultation with congregations, Associations and Conferences for the purpose of developing resources for the study of human sexuality and developing a process for decision making that may be utilized by Associations in the matter of ordaining affirmed homosexuals.
- C. Recommends to Associations that as they continue to clarify their understanding of the theology of ordination they give serious consideration to the position of the Council for Church and Ministry in the matter of human sexuality: *“In the instance of considering a stated homosexual’s candidacy for ordination, the issue should not be his/her homosexuality as such, but rather, the candidate’s total view of human sexuality and his/her understanding of the morality of its use (expression).”*
- D. Directs the Council for Church and Ministry, and its successor body, to make progress reports and possible recommendations to the Executive Council during the present biennium.