

**RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO THE CONCERNS OF SAME-GENDER
ORIENTED PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILIES WITHIN THE UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

[Adopted by the Fourteenth General Synod, United Church of Christ, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 24-28, 1983. Vote: 95% Majority]

Whereas, God calls us into the family of faith to share our joys and our sorrows, to serve God by serving our neighbor, to proclaim justice and to do justice, to personify the liberating Gospel of Christ, and to celebrate our Oneness as the people of God; and

Whereas, same-gender oriented persons baptized and nurtured in the Christian faith in United Church of Christ congregations, and their families, are, no less than other United Church of Christ members, concerned about the welfare of the family; and

Whereas, serious pastoral concerns exist with regards to the oppressive attitudes which same-gender oriented persons and their families encounter in the church and in the society as a whole; and

Whereas, such attitudes often cause same-gender oriented youth and adults, spouses and children of same-gender oriented persons, parents of same-gender oriented persons, and other family members to experience alienation and isolation within the community of faith; and

Whereas, the Thirteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ adopted Family Life as a Priority of the United Church of Christ calling for “all families to be ministered to creatively and for all persons, regardless of their family patterns, to be affirmed and supported in the life of the church, manifesting our unity as a family in Christ”, and

Whereas, the Family Life Priority Working Group has been commissioned with the responsibility to faithfully implement the Family Life Priority; and

Whereas, the concerns of same-gender oriented persons and their families are related to painful realities which merit serious consideration and action by the Family Life Priority Working Group, including, but not limited to, concern for recognition of the faithful familial relationships of same-gender oriented persons; affirmation for same-gender oriented youth and adults; reconciliation within families seeking to cope with the knowledge that their families include one or more same-gender oriented children, spouse, parent or relative; sensitivity to the discrimination faced by same-gender oriented persons who are hospitalized and are denied the comforting presence of their beloved; advocacy for same-gender oriented persons seeking custody of their children; and response to the isolation which many same-gender oriented elderly persons experience, many of whom look to the church to be a supportive community in the often difficult final years of life; and

Whereas, the entire church, and especially congregational life, will be enriched through deepened awareness of the constellation of family life which exists within every United Church of Christ congregation; and

Whereas, United Church of Christ pastors are in need of resources and educational opportunities to enable them to better serve the same-gender oriented persons within their congregations and communities, and their families;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Fourteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ reaffirms the Family Life Priority commitment that “all families be ministered to creatively and that persons regardless of their family patterns, be affirmed and supported in the life of the church, manifesting our unity as a family in Christ:” and

That the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries be requested to invite the United Church Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns to participate as consultants to the Family Life Priority Working Group to articulate the concerns of same-gender oriented United Church members and their families.