

**Resolutions passed by the General Assembly of The Church of God Regarding Homosexuality,
Gay Marriage, Same Sex Marriages, since June, 1979**

June 1979

Since the world is invaded by sex perversion in the form of homosexuality, we, the Church of God Reformation Movement, do hereby express our conviction concerning the issue:

WHEREAS we in the Church of God, being an evangelical people, committed to biblical holiness, give high regard to scriptural injunctions against homosexuality, we are also a redemptive body and seek to express love, compassion, and a chaste relationship in Christ for everyone; be it

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of the Church of God go on record as affirming our conviction that biblically we believe homosexuality is sin. We hereby stand firmly opposed to licensing, ordination, or approving persons in leadership actively involved in this life-style; be it further

RESOLVED, That we stand opposed to any instruction in our church-sponsored institutions or the use of curriculum material which accepts homosexuality as either normal, desirable, or Christian.

Copied from Thinking and Acting Together: God's Guidance of the Corporate Life of the Church through the First Seventy-Five Years of the Work of the General Assembly, Church of God. Compiled and edited by Barry L. Callen (Pgs. 67-68).

**1993 and 2004 General Assembly Resolutions Regarding Homosexuality -- referenced in the
2014 General Assembly Resolution Ministerial-Facility Protection Against Forced Officiating-
Hosting Same Sex Marriages adopted by the 96th General Assembly of the Church of God
June 1993 General Assembly Meeting Minutes: Resolution Regarding Homosexuality**

The General Assembly has, from time to time, deemed it appropriate to speak to the church regarding matters of spiritual, social, and ethical importance. In 1979 the Assembly passed a resolution titled "Statement Against Homosexuality" [see Entry 126]. Since then the subject has emerged with spirited discussion in the public arena. It seems timely, therefore, that the Assembly once again address the subject with biblical conviction, compassion, and caring:

WHEREAS, there is a current national focus on homosexuality, frequently viewing it as an acceptable alternative lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, there is long-standing biblical evidence that a homosexual life-style is perverse and destructive to individuals and to society; and

WHEREAS, we in the Church of God are committed to biblical holiness and hold in high regard scriptural injunctions related to homosexuality and, therefore, cannot accept, endorse, or condone homosexual behavior; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the sexual relationship between man and woman within the bonds of marriage is viewed as something natural and beautiful—ordained of God; and

WHEREAS, we are a redemptive body and seek to express love, compassion, and concern for those who struggle with sexual identity or homosexual orientation to assist them in a chaste relationship in Christ; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the General Assembly call on congregational and institutional leaders of the Church of God to demonstrate love and provide counsel and materials to assist families and persons confused or distressed by homosexual behavior and to bring redemption and wholeness to those persons; be it further

RESOLVED, that we respectfully urge all persons inclined toward homosexual behavior to seek the grace of God and such other aid and counsel as may be conducive to their relief; be it further

RESOLVED, however, that the General Assembly of the Church of God go on record affirming our conviction that, biblically, we believe homosexual behavior is sin; be it further

RESOLVED, that the General Assembly stands firmly opposed to the licensing, ordination, or approving for leadership those who are involved in this life-style; be it finally

RESOLVED, that the General Assembly supports instruction which brings understanding to issues related to homosexuality, but opposes instruction which endorses or promotes homosexual behavior as an acceptable alternate or Christian life-style.

JUNE 29-30, 2004 General Assembly Meeting Minutes:
Resolution Regarding Same-Sex Marriage

Whereas, the Church of God upholds the sanctity of family and the institution of marriage; and

Whereas, the current topic about same-sex marriage is being debated in North America and other nations of the world and is identified under various titles: “Civil Union”, “Gay Marriage”, “Same Sex Unions”, “Equal Marriage”, “Equal Partnership”, etc.; and

Whereas, this assembly in session June 1993 affirmed a resolution which stated our position of homosexuality as a sin and therefore to be rejected; and

Whereas, the issues of homosexual partnerships continue to be a cause of concern and disunity within society in general and the church particular; and

Whereas, there is action pending before Congress regarding the definition of marriage.

Be it therefore resolved: that this assembly, the 86th Session General Assembly of the Church of God, go on record as supporting the definition of marriage as a union between one woman and one man; and

Be it finally resolved: that official communication stating this position be facilitated between this assembly and the members of the United States Congress; and that they be encouraged to pass legislation to enshrine the historical definition of marriage in United States Law.

[<http://www.choginmi.org/Media/1993And2004GeneralAssemblyResolutionsRegardingHomosexuality.pdf>]

Resolution on Ministerial/Facility Protection Against Forced Officiating/Hosting of Same-Sex Marriages (adopted by the 96th General Assembly of the Church of God, June 26, 2014)

WHEREAS, the ultimate authority for the Church of God movement (Anderson) is biblical revelation; and

WHEREAS, biblical revelation is understood by this movement to teach the appropriateness of a sexual relationship only between a man and a woman within the bonds of marriage (General Assembly resolution of June, 1993); and

WHEREAS, biblical revelation is understood by this movement to teach that marriage is the sacred union of one woman and one man (General Assembly resolution of June, 2004); and

WHEREAS, the most recent edition (2011) of the Credentials Manual for Church of God ministers/chaplains in North America states in section 2.13 that "those to whom vocational credentialing is granted are expected to hold persuasions that are in general agreement with the teaching tradition of the Church of God movement"; and

WHEREAS, current legal trends and changing social practices threaten to bring pressure on pastors/chaplains of the Church of God to officiate at "marriage" ceremonies that are contrary to biblical revelation and thus to Church of God beliefs and expectations of its credentialed ministers/chaplains; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the General Assembly, convened in June, 2014, hereby reaffirms its traditional understandings of and sincerely-held religious beliefs about sexuality, marriage, and its related expectation of appropriate pastor/chaplain practice in these regards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly recommend that all national and local entities of the Church of God (Anderson) consider establishing policies that restrict the use of their facilities from same-sex marriages.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

[Resolution -- Ministerial/Facility Protection Against Forced Officiating/Hosting of Same-Sex Marriages adopted by the 96th General Assembly of the Church of God Page 1 of 1]

[<http://www.jesusisthesubject.org/files/downloads/documents/ga/ResolutionMinisterial-FacilityProtectionAgainstForcedOfficiatingHostingOfSame-SexMarriages.pdf>]