

Rainbow Mennonite Church

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Resolution from Rainbow Mennonite Church
For Western District Conference
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Whereas writers in the Hebrew Bible have condemned certain same-sex sexual relations, as did Paul in the New Testament, and

Whereas promiscuity is universally rejected by the Word and Holy Spirit of the church, and

Whereas Jesus was outspoken on mercy, love and acceptance of and for all, and

Whereas Jesus' transformative incarnation claims superiority over all laws and proscriptions that preceded him or stand at variance with his Word or Spirit, and

Whereas in the texts of the canon Jesus was silent on the topic of homosexuality, and

Whereas the church at large, as well as the Western District Conference of the Mennonite Church USA, lacks consensus regarding the status of homosexuality as it related to sin, civil unions or marriages, and

Whereas church documents that have attempted to provide clarity on this subject reflect a cultural and historical context that – with considered, respectful theological discernment – puts many believers at variance with the teaching position of the church as represented in those documents, and

Whereas performing an same-sex ceremony may trigger a credential review under MCUSA 2001 membership guidelines, and that review may open pastors to other scrutiny but need not in the Western District Conference subject them to dismissal on those grounds alone.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Western District Conference of the Mennonite Church USA, out of respect for the responsibility and commitment “to seek to understand and interpret Scripture in harmony with Jesus Christ as we are led by the Holy Spirit in the church,” upholds the right of the individual congregations to discern how homosexuality will be subject to Biblical interpretation, and

Be it further resolved that pastors, with the affirmation of their congregations, consistent with Mennonite polity, and without fear of censure, may officiate or refuse to officiate ceremonies that consecrate before God monogamous, life-long unions, regardless of the sexual orientation of those being united.