

**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 96<sup>th</sup> 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 86<sup>th</sup> 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.

The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.