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LUTHERAN CHURCH—CANADA

**RESOLUTIONS**



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**RESOLUTION 93.1.05**

**To Express The Position of Lutheran Church—Canada On Homosexuality**

(Ref.: Overture 1.05)

WHEREAS many voices in our society as well as in various church bodies are expressing the view today that homosexuality is morally neutral and that homophile behaviour is an acceptable alternative lifestyle; and

WHEREAS such attitudes contradict the clear Word of God,  
"Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable (Leviticus 18:22)"  
"Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. (Romans 1:26-27)"  
"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (I Corinthians 6:9-10)"; and

WHEREAS The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention in 1973 stated: "That the Synod recognize homophile behaviour as intrinsically sinful"; and

WHEREAS the document, "Human Sexuality, A Theological Perspective," prepared by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod states, "Whatever the causes of such a condition may be, ...homosexual orientation is profoundly 'unnatural' without implying that such a person's sexual orientation is a matter of conscious, deliberate choice. However, this fact cannot be used by the homosexual as an excuse to justify homosexual behaviour.

As a sinful human being, the homosexual is accountable to God for homosexual thoughts, words, and deeds"; and

WHEREAS it is necessary for the church to expose and resist the sexual idolatry of our society; and

WHEREAS the redeeming love of Christ, which rescues humanity from sin, death, and the power of Satan, is offered to all through repentance and faith in Christ, regardless of the nature of their sinfulness; and

WHEREAS it is important that the church apply both the Law and the Gospel in dealing with homosexuality; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Synod declare its position that homosexuality is a distortion of God's intention for the human race and that homosexual thoughts, desires, words and deeds are contrary to God's will; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Synod encourage all its pastors, teachers and congregations to exercise consistent but compassionate ministry to those affected by their own homosexuality or that of others; and be it further

RESOLVED that the goals of such ministry be:

1. To uphold the biblical model of loving, committed and lifelong heterosexual marriage as God's design for the human race
2. To reaffirm that those not called into such an estate can still live full lives to the glory of God in a context of sexual celibacy
3. To confront the homosexual with his/her sinfulness, and call him/her to repentance and faith in Christ
4. To help the individual to recognize that God can and does rescue individuals from homosexual orientation and practice
5. To assist the individual to rely on Christ's love and the power of the Holy Spirit to abstain from homophile behaviour
6. To help the penitent homosexual to bear his/her burden in an atmosphere of love and encouragement from the church without fear of recrimination and rejection by his/her brothers and sisters in Christ
7. To extend the ministry of healing and restoration to the families of those afflicted with homosexuality;

and be it finally

RESOLVED that the Board for Missions and Social Ministry Services provide both material and human resources to enable this ministry to be effective

Adopted, Session 2