

Bringing a proposal on Sexuality to the Eleventh Assembly

The following course of action is recommended to all congregations concerned at the passing of Resolution 84 by the 10th Assembly in 2003.

- A. That the proposal outlined below be brought simultaneously by as many presbyteries as possible to the Eleventh Assembly.

[Rather than bringing a host of similar resolutions, which would be lost in the committee process, it is thought to be more effective if all concerned parties bring the same resolution.]

- B. That in each presbytery as many congregations as possible bring this same proposal to their presbytery for debate.

[Rather than one congregation or one member of Presbytery bringing the proposal (with accompanying timidity) it is suggested that as many congregations as are willing bring the same proposal. With the same proposal coming from multiple congregations the Presbytery would be obliged to deal formally with the proposal by giving appropriate time to debate it, and if necessary by going to formal procedures to vote on it.]

Proposal for the Eleventh Assembly

The following proposal has been formed to bring a biblical statement to the 11th Assembly concerning the God given sexual nature of humanity. If this resolution is passed by the Assembly it will qualify the meaning of Resolution 84, which, because of its indirect language, would then be governed by the biblical statement.

That the Assembly reaffirm the sexual teaching and practice of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, as attested in Scripture, by adopting the following confessional statement:

- a. We believe that God created us as male and female to live in freedom and unity with each other by being faithful to our male or female gender. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-24)
- b. We believe that sexual intercourse should be expressed solely within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, which God ordained and which is confirmed by Christ and honoured by its unique likeness to Christ's relationship to the Church. (Gen 2:24; Mat 19:4-7; Mk 10:6-8; Eph.5:25-33)
- c. We believe that people who engage in homosexual practice are acting contrary to the clear witness of Scripture to our creation by God as male and female (Lev. 18:22; Lev. 20:13(a); Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-20; 1 Tim. 1:8-11)
- d. We believe that people who engage in homosexual practice harm the eucharistic fellowship of the Church as the Body of Christ (1 Cor 5-6)
- e. We believe that the Church's solidarity with the world in sin (Rom 3:23) and gratitude for the reconciliation of the world in Christ (2 Cor 5:16-21) commits her:
 - i. To speak Christ's word of mercy and friendship to any person who is tempted by homosexual practice (John 8:1-11), and to offer them counselling and pastoral care when they experience temptation, hostility, illness or bereavement (Galatians 6:1-6)
 - ii. To invite people practicing homosexuality to experience Christ's freedom by abandoning behaviour which is contrary to the clear witness of Scripture (Galatians 5:16-25)
- f. We believe that the Church should not normalize homosexual practices within the Church by:
 - i. Ordaining, commissioning or inducting into the ministries of the Church those practising homosexuality.
 - ii. Solemnizing or blessing homosexual unions.