



Blessing of Same Gender Unions

WHEREAS, voting members of the 1993 and 2001 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly voted to encourage congregations and agencies to become Reconciling In Christ, thereby becoming places of welcome for all people, including lesbian, gay, transgender, and bisexual people; and

WHEREAS, this church recognizes that people who minister in the Spirit of God in Christ and honor the authority of scripture often differ on many issues, including issues of sexuality; and

WHEREAS, in the priesthood of all believers we are witnesses to God's call into service to individuals with diverse gifts and characteristics, including gays and lesbians in faithful relationships; and

WHEREAS, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August, 2001 authorized a four year to six year study and recommendation for action on these issues as well as the more general ethical issue of human sexuality; leaving opportunity for input across the church; and

WHEREAS, other ELCA Synod Assemblies (including Greater Milwaukee, 2001; Metropolitan Chicago, 2000; Southeast Michigan, 2001) have endorsed the principle of Pastors' blessing the unions of same gender couples, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2002 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly recognizes and affirms those pastors and congregations who ask God's blessing on faithful, committed same gender relationships, doing so in good conscience on the basis of their understanding of scripture and tradition.

Submitted by the Reconciling In Christ Committee, and the Church Council of
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Denver, CO
February 26, 2002