

STUDY RESOLUTION

From the Gender and Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group (Approved at the CUC Annual Meeting, May 2004)

1.0 WHEREAS, among its other principles, the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) affirms and promotes:

- a) the inherent worth and dignity of every individual, and
- b) justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and

2.0 WHEREAS the Mission of the CUC's Gender and Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group (GASDMG) is "to uphold Unitarian Universalist Principles in order to assist and support the safe and equitable representation and inclusion of sexual and gender minorities and their supporters in Canadian Unitarian Universalist congregations by offering education, representation, political action, and historical preservation," and

3.0 WHEREAS the Vision of the GASDMG is "that all Canadian Unitarian Universalist congregations and organizations concretely reach out to and support communities who may be experiencing oppression based on their gender and/or sexual identities," and

4.0 WHEREAS Canadian Unitarians & Universalists have a long history of affirming and supporting the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people ⁽¹⁾, and

5.0 WHEREAS twenty-one of Canada's fifty existing and emerging Unitarian & Universalist societies (representing 78% of individual members of Canadian Unitarian and Universalist societies) have completed, or are in the process of completing the "Welcoming Congregation" program ⁽²⁾, and

6.0 WHEREAS Canadian Unitarian & Universalist clergy have been performing "services of union" for same-sex couples since 1972, and

7.0 WHEREAS the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and/or transgender persons in Canada are in a state of rapid change (for example, since July 2002, the courts of three provinces - representing 70% of the Canadian population - have recognized the equal right of same-sex couples to marry, while the remaining provinces and territories continue to deny this right),

8.0 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the delegates at this Annual Meeting in Edmonton authorize a study of the CUC's policies and programs with regard to its responsibilities and to its position on the rights and responsibilities of gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or transgender persons in its member congregations and in Canadian society at large.

9.0 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study be carried out under the direction of the CUC's Gender and Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group with the objective of presenting a report and recommended resolution(s) for approval by delegates at the CUC's annual meeting in 2006.

10.0 Current (April 2004) members of the CUC's Gender and Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group are:

Dawn Barbeau, Chair (Unitarian Church of Vancouver)

Jean Armstrong (Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship – Thunder Bay)

Art Brewer (First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto)

Gilles Marchildon (Ottawa East Unitarian Universalist Fellowship)

Jamie Milroy (Neighbourhood UU Congregation – Toronto)

Elliot Storm (Unitarian Congregation – Toronto)

Notes:

(1) In 1978, at the Canadian Unitarian Council Annual General Meeting, delegates encouraged "all societies and individual members to support all efforts to modify federal and provincial codes of human rights to bar discrimination based on sexual orientation."

(2) Welcoming Congregations are those which have completed a program and have passed a congregational vote to affirm that they welcome the membership and active participation of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and/or transgender people.