

Public Statement Concerning the Legal Recognition of Same-Sex Unions

Assembly 2003

- We affirm the worth and dignity of all people;
- We support the separation of Church and State in Canadian society, however this does not negate the right of the Church to speak to the state;
- We value the principles of freedom and democracy by which our country is governed;
- We respect the cultural, ethnic and religious diversity of Canadian society;
- We cherish the freedom we have to live according to our faith and to hold beliefs which are sometimes at odds with secular society;
- On the matter of the legal recognition of same-sex unions, we believe that:
 1. Marriage is a unique institution, based on the union of one man and one woman;
 2. Marriage is the fundamental social unit of society;
 3. The institution of marriage should be upheld in Canadian law and public policy because it encourages social stability;
 4. The marriage relationship is the preferred context within which society reproduces itself;
 5. Marriage is more than simply a relationship of love and commitment between two people – it is also a social institution and, in our view, a religious covenant between two people in the presence of God;
 6. In Christian theology, marriage is not only endorsed by God but the marriage relationship is used to depict the union of Christ and His church;
 7. The opposite-sex definition of marriage, while it makes a distinction, does not discriminate against gays and lesbians;
 8. In law and public policy the opposite-sex requirement for marriage should be maintained; and
 9. These views are consistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. They reflect principles that affirm “the supremacy of God and the rule of law” while also respecting the protections guaranteed in Section 15.