

Priesthood Direction Regarding Same Sex Marriage

By Apostle Mary Jacks Dynes

As priesthood who are part of the leadership of Canada, I want to keep you informed on important issues.

The government of Canada has introduced draft legislation to the Supreme Court of Canada that would legalize same-sex marriage across Canada. The legislation would allow religious denominations the right to refuse to perform same-sex marriages if it is contrary to their belief system. In British Columbia and Ontario, same-sex marriages are already occurring as a result of recent provincial court decisions.

The current position of the Community of Christ (See attachment: World Conference Resolution 1182) on marriage explicitly assumes that marriage occurs between “husband and wife.” For this reason, the First Presidency does not feel free to authorize the church’s priesthood to officiate in same-sex marriages. Priesthood members have always been required to obtain administrative approval before performing any marriage, and the First Presidency understands the action of the World Conference to say that same-sex marriages cannot be authorized. Nevertheless, same-sex marriages that are legally performed by proper authorities can be recorded in the church’s membership records.

As you know, the First Presidency is providing for an on-going dialogue on issues related to homosexuality and all members, including priesthood, are encouraged to be engaged in this process.

Thank you for your continual efforts to minister in your area. Together we serve,