



CANADIAN
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Resolutions – 1978 – 1984 – Sexual Orientation, A Summary

Two resolutions, in 1978 and 1984, dealt with human rights and sexual orientation. In 1978 the Annual Meeting 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.”

In 1984 the Annual Meeting adopted a resolution directed at the Canadian Unitarian Council and its member congregations. It urged member societies

1. to establish guidelines for the effective inclusion and support of and programming for lesbian and gay people, and
2. to consider actively the candidacy of qualified religious leaders regardless of sexual orientation, and
3. to support religious leaders in the performance of lesbian and gay partnership services.

The two resolutions on sexual orientation are among the few which are directed at the activities and behaviour of our own membership. In the last two to three years there has been much more interest in the Welcoming Congregation program in Canadian congregations. Part of this is a result of the work of Stan Calder, who, particularly in the Western Canada District, carried out a kind of “circuit rider” function to talk about the importance of this program and its implementation. Even so, it was a couple of years before the program began to be used widely. We have had lesbian or gay ministers in Canada, and there are Interweave or other support groups in several congregations. Services of union for same sex couples are performed by our ministers and most chaplains. A number of congregations have begun participating in Gay Pride Parades and other similar activities.