

Homosexuality is a Gift from God

All human sexuality—homosexuality, heterosexuality and bisexuality—is a gift from God for human fulfillment. Therefore RCHP joins the Classis of New Brunswick, an open and affirming organization of 29 local churches to whom alone we are amenable, to request that the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America proclaim the following:

“We praise God because each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made, as written in Psalm 139:

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.

God alone prescribes who we are to be. As God determines whether we are right- or left-handed, God weaves our gender, sexuality, and sexual orientation into our very being; no elements of our personal identity are more inextricable. People whose identities do not conform to dominant societal norms—lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender, asexual, and gender non-conforming identities, among an ever increasing list of others—are gifts of God to humanity. They reveal that God’s astonishingly diverse creativity surpasses our limited human understanding. Therefore it is a sin to disparage people because they do not conform to society’s heterosexual norms and binary conceptions of gender (either male or female based on biology at birth). The Bible affirms that God alone has primary authority over the gender, sexuality, and sexual orientation God has ordained for each of us.”

Reasons:

1. Each person’s unique expression of our God-given identity reflects the mysterious perfection in which we were made.
2. As it is in our polity that General Synod speaks on behalf of the church to the world, it is fitting to proclaim God’s primary authority in determining each person’s gender, sexuality, and sexual orientation.
3. No human being should attempt to prescribe personal identity for another. It takes tremendous faith in God for people to express God-given identities that diverge from societal norms. The pastoral role of the church is to affirm each person’s God-given identity and to uphold our faith in God’s primary authority over who we are to be.

*(Appears on page 85 of the **RCA General Synod 2015 Workbook**, which can be found online at <http://images.rca.org/docs/synod/Synod2015-Workbook.pdf>)*