



# THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## **FAITH IN ACTION**

*I WILL SHOW YOU MY FAITH BY WHAT I DO. JAMES 2:18*

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 49<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING  
10-12 JUNE 2011 | COLLEGE OF ST. BENEDICT

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Editor  
Star Tribune Newspaper  
Minneapolis – St. Paul

Dear Editor,

As more than 400,000 DVDs opposing gay marriage are being mailed to the homes of Minnesota Catholics, Star Tribune readers may wish to know that the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC) at its 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (June 2010) voted a resolution in support of Marriage Equality.

The resolution declares “while recognizing and respecting the diversity of theological understandings within our member churches, we affirm support for marriage equality for couples regardless of gender.” The resolution also encourages the member churches of the Minnesota Conference “to engage in serious, respectful, and prayerful discussion of the covenantal relationship of marriage... and if led by God’s guidance, to take action in support of marriage equality for couples regardless of gender.” The resolution further requests that member churches “after prayerful biblical, theological, and historical study... consider adopting wedding policies that do not discriminate against couples regardless of gender.” Finally, the resolution instructs the Conference Minister of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ to communicate this action to “members of the Minnesota State Legislature and to the general public.”

The resolution was presented by the Open and Affirming/Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (ONA/LGBT) ministry team of the Minnesota Conference UCC. It was co-sponsored by thirteen delegates who are ordained clergy within the Minnesota Conference, UCC. To encourage thorough review and discussion, it was sent to each local church six weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting and was the subject of a hearing prior to the vote at the Annual Meeting.

The complete text of the resolution is available at [www.uccmn.org](http://www.uccmn.org). In 2005, the 25<sup>th</sup> General Synod of the United Church of Christ approved a resolution entitled “Equal Marriage Rights for All.” The complete text of that resolution can be found at [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org).

The Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ is comprised of 137 member congregations and more than 350 authorized ministers. Voting at the Annual Meeting is by lay delegates from local churches as well as by authorized ministers and those serving on the Board of Directors and other Conference entities or ministry partners. In the United Church of Christ, gatherings of the wider church speak to but not for the local churches.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Karen Smith Sellers  
Conference Minister

