

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT BY THE SESSION OF
THE DRAYTON AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FOR THE PROPOSED FERNDALE HUMAN RIGHT ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the *Great Ends of the Church* include the promotion of social righteousness. See Book of Order G-1.0200.

WHEREAS, the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* calls the church, in its witness to the uniqueness of the Christian faith, to be “responsive to diversity in both the church and the world.” See Book of Order G-4.0400.

WHEREAS, the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* calls the Presbytery, “to institute and coordinate a churchwide plan for equal employment opportunity and affirmative action for members of racial ethnic groups, for women, for various age groups, for persons regardless of marital condition (married, single, widowed, or divorced), and for persons with disabilities.” See Book of Order G-13.0201b

WHEREAS, in 1977 the PCUS General Assembly expressed “. . . the need for the Church to stand for just treatment of homosexual persons in our society in regard to their civil liberties, equal rights, and protection under the law from social and economic discrimination which is due all citizens . . .” (PCUS, 1977, p. 174).

WHEREAS, the PCUS General Assembly reaffirmed its 1977 decision in 1978 and 1979 (PCUS, 1978, p. 190; PCUS, 1979, p. 208).

WHEREAS, in 1978, the UPCUSA declared that “. . . there is no legal, social, or moral justification for denying homosexual persons access to the basic requirements of human social existence . . .” (UPCUSA, 1978, p. 264).

WHEREAS, the 119th General Assembly (1979), commended to the Church a study paper entitled *The Church and Homosexuality: A Preliminary Study*, which stated at Section VI(3)(a) that: The Church is called to bear witness to the justice of the Kingdom of God by standing for justice in human society. Whether or not Christians accept or approve of homosexuality itself, they should stand for just treatment of homosexual persons as well as all other persons in our society. They should advocate and defend for homosexual persons also the civil liberties, equal rights and protection under the law from social and economic discrimination which are due all other citizens.

WHEREAS the 205th General Assembly (1993) confirmed that current church policy clearly stated that as Presbyterians, we are to stand for just treatment of homosexual persons, including working toward protection under the law from discrimination. See PC(USA), pp. 118-119 – Relating to the call for a repeal of Amendment 2 of the Colorado Constitution that abrogated all laws that protect people against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; See also *Romer v. Evans*, 517 U.S. 620 (1996)(declaring Amendment 2 unconstitutional).

WHEREAS, the City Council of the Ferndale, Michigan has placed a proposed Human Rights Ordinance on the ballot for the general election scheduled for November 7, 2006. See Attachment A.

WHEREAS, the proposed Human Rights Ordinance states that:

No person or persons shall discriminate against any person or persons within the City of Ferndale regarding employment, housing, public accommodations and public services on the basis of that person's race, color, religion, gender, age, height or weight, martial status, sexual orientation, familial status, national origin or physical or mental disability.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that:

The Session of The Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church 1) supports the just treatment of all persons in civil society, 2) believes that the proposed Ferndale Human Rights ordinance is consistent with the policy of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to oppose discrimination and promote civil rights, and 3) supports the passage of the proposed Ferndale Human Rights ordinance by the electors of the City of Ferndale.

Rev. Dr. J. Scott Miller, Moderator

Louisa Halmi, Clerk of Session

Date: _____