

## The Current Position of the Christian Reformed Church of North America

The CRC position on homosexuality, established by Synod 1973 and affirmed by several subsequent synods, is summarized in the following definitions and statements of pastoral advice that were recommended to CRC churches. A Study Committee has been formed and is expected to make a more detailed report in 2021.

### Definitions:

*Homosexuality:* a condition of personal identity in which a person is sexually oriented toward persons of the same sex.

*Homosexualism:* explicit and overt homosexual practice.

*Homosexual:* a person who has erotic attractions for members of the same sex and who may or may not actually engage in homosexualism.

### Statements of pastoral advice:

Homosexuality is a condition in which a person is sexually oriented toward persons of the same sex, and for which the person may bear only a minimal responsibility. Persons of same-sex attraction may not be denied community acceptance solely because of their sexual orientation and should be wholeheartedly received by the church and given loving support and encouragement. Same-sex oriented Christians, like all Christians, are called to discipleship, holy obedience, and the use of their gifts in the cause of the kingdom. Opportunities to serve within the offices and the life of the congregation should be afforded to same-sex oriented Christians as well as to heterosexual Christians.

Homosexualism (that is, explicit homosexual practice), however, is incompatible with obedience to the will of God as revealed in Scripture. The church affirms that it must exercise the same compassion for same-sex oriented persons in their sins as it exercises for all other sinners. The church should do everything in its power to help persons with same-sex orientation and give them support toward healing and wholeness. A synodical report titled Pastoral Care for Homosexual Members is available at [www.crcna.org/SynodResources](http://www.crcna.org/SynodResources).