



## USA Conference

July 18-22, 2012

Independence, Missouri  
International Headquarters

*“Various USA mission centers filed resolutions to the 2010 World Conference on two subjects. The first was the ordination of people involved in same-gender relationships. The second was on same-gender marriages and unions.*

*As a result, the USA Apostolic Team concluded these two issues need timely attention to allow the “restoring work of the gospel to move forward with all of its potential” in the USA.*

*The sense of the USA Apostolic Team is that the church in the USA needs to journey together, considering where God is leading us in response to these two issues. We invite the church in the USA to join in scripture study, prayer, reasoning together, listening to our stories, and reflecting on our tradition.*

*To allow plenty of time for this, our plan is to call a national conference in Independence, Missouri. It will open by 7 p.m., Wednesday, July 18, 2012, and it will close by noon July 22.”*

Visit the [Community of Christ web site](#) or the August Herald for more information. Two articles as well as Frequently Asked Questions can be found. A piece of information we found interesting was in the FAQ section.

*“A USA gathering was held Friday morning, April 16, during the 2010 World Conference. During the USA gathering, 1,100 individuals and 400 groups responded to a survey, “Help Shape USA National Conference.” Only 5 percent listed pressing issues as something other than same-gender issues.”*

## World Church Leadership Council and Standing High Council to Meet in September

The World Church Leadership Council (general officers, presidents of World Church quorums, and directors) and the Standing High Council will meet in retreat September 18–19, 2010.

The retreat’s purpose is to discuss the 1982 Standing High Council statement on “Homosexuality” and the 2002 World Church Leadership Council statement on “Community, Common Consent, and Homosexuality.”

This discussion is in response to confusion in some areas about which parts of the statements are official policy and which parts describe perspectives on homosexuality when the statements were written. In response to requests for clarification, the groups will work together to provide helpful information to the church as discussions about same-gender and sexual-orientation issues continue and plans are made for national or field conferences.

The Presidency invites members and friends to remember the World Church Leadership Council and the Standing High Council in your prayers as these leadership groups discuss extremely complex issues in the church’s life.

As a reminder, all church administrative policies prohibiting priesthood from performing same-gender/sex marriages and prohibiting the ordination of non-celibate homosexual people remain in place during this time of discussion and study.

THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

## Upcoming Events

- [Building an Inclusive Church training](#)
- August 20-21, 2010 — Indianapolis, IN
- September 10-12, 2010 — Holland, MI
- September 24-25, 2010 — Seattle, WA
- October 29-30, 2010 — Boston, MA
- November 5-6, 2010 — Orange, CA
- November 5-7, 2010 — Chicago, IL
- November 12-13, 2010 — Houston, TX
- November 19-20, 2010 — Lawrence, KS
- November 19-21, 2010 — Philadelphia, PA
- December 10-11, 2010 — Harrisonburg, VA
- December 10-12, 2010 — New York, NY

[More information and registration](#) for these training events.

- [GALA Retreat](#)
  - September 3-6 — Samish Island, WA
- [Believe Out Loud Power Summit](#)
  - October 9-11 — Orlando, FL

## WCN Annual Gathering 2011

January 2011  
Independence, Missouri



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## In the News



### Judge Strikes Down Prop 8

### Gay Marriage Ban in California Ruled Unconstitutional.

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal judge overturned California's gay-marriage ban August 4th in a landmark case that could eventually force the U.S. Supreme Court to confront the question of whether same-sex couples have a constitutional right to wed.

[Read more](#)

### [Minn. pastor back in pulpit after gay report](#)

Minneapolis, *Associated Press*, August 3, 2010  
A Lutheran pastor in Minneapolis who opposes homosexuals being allowed to lead congregations said Monday he is attracted to men, but that he's not a hypocrite because he never acted on his urges. The Rev. Tom Brock told *The Associated Press* he has known for years he is sexually attracted to men, but doesn't consider himself gay because he never acted on it.

### [150 Orthodox rabbis sign statement for acceptance of gay Jews](#)

*365Gay.com*, August 3, 2010

A group of Orthodox rabbis issued a statement calling for the acceptance of gays and lesbians in the Orthodox community. The statement said, "Embarrassing, harassing or demeaning someone with a homosexual orientation or same-sex attraction is a violation of Torah prohibitions that embody the deepest values of Judaism." . . . About 150 rabbis, mostly from the Modern Orthodox movement signed the statement

**Don't miss Charlie Robison's testimony in the July [GALA newsletter](#)**

## Same-sex marriage advocates rally across state



Des Moines, Iowa,  
*Sioux City News*,  
August 1, 2010

*“Sunday’s political rhetoric over the same-sex marriage issue was as hot*

*as the August sun as traditionalists called November’s election a “test of faith” and first-lady Mari Culver took her first public stance defending an Iowa court decision legalizing civil marriages for gays and lesbians.”* [Read more.](#)

Iowa appears to be one of the next battle grounds where attempts to change a state constitution to deny equal rights to its citizens is gaining support. In spite of the recent ruling in California striking down Prop 8, these forces are continuing to seek support.

Welcoming congregations as well as individuals need to be in the forefront of advocating for equal rights for all. The Community of Christ core value, **The Worth of All Persons**, demands no less. [What can you do to support equal rights?](#)

**What is your WCN congregation doing to keep the spotlight on the issues? We need articles, reports, pictures, etc. for this newsletter. If your congregation is in process of becoming a WCN congregation – share with us what activities or strategies you are utilizing. Help us make this newsletter a place to share what works and even what doesn’t.**

## Interfaith leader calls gay marriage legal issue

By JENNIFER DOBNER  
The Associated Press

People of faith should engage in civil dialogue about gay marriage, but government should rely on the U.S.



Constitution — not religion — in deciding who can marry, the head of the national Interfaith Alliance said Friday.

The Rev. C. Welton Gaddy says marriage is a legal issue in the United States and only government can grant a marriage license.

“Religions care about it, yes, but you can’t get married because of your religion,” Gaddy said during a presentation on religious freedom at Sunstone, an annual forum for Mormon culture and academic study in Salt Lake City.

Support of, or opposition to, gay marriage is “not a matter of whether you are a good Christian, a good Mormon, or a good Muslim,” said Gaddy, a Baptist who is also a pastor at Northminster Church in Monroe, La. “It’s a question of whether or not you’re a good American. It’s a question of whether or not you support the Constitution.”

Churches belong in the conversation — and have the right to denounce homosexuality and gay relationships — but should not be allowed to impose their sectarian positions on government. [read the entire article](#)