

**Position Statement of the National Chinese Caucus
of the United Methodist Church on
the Issues of Homosexuality**

July 24, 1999

Whereas there were homosexual union ceremonies officiated by the United Methodist ministers who in so doing violated the Book of Discipline 1996 (¶ 65C);

Whereas there are petitions to the 2000 General Conference to delete the sentence on the prohibition of the conduction of homosexual unions by United Methodist ministers, to revise the wording on the incompatibility of homosexual behavior with biblical teaching (¶ 65G), and to revise the ordination criteria so as to allow the ordination of self-avowed, practicing homosexuals (¶ 304.3);

Whereas the above actions are creating confusion and undermining the morale of our people and of our ministries, thus causing some of our people to leave the United Methodist Church;

Whereas we believe the Holy Bible, Old and New Testaments, is to be received through the Holy Spirit as the true rule and guide for faith and practice (¶ 62, Article IV, page 65);

Whereas we believe Christians are enabled to live in accordance with God's will, and to strive for holiness without which no one will see the Lord (¶ 62, Article XI, page 67);

Whereas we believe the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching (¶ 65G);

Whereas the practice of homosexuality is also incompatible with Chinese culture and the approval of such behavior will definitely be a great obstacle to the expansion of the Chinese United Methodist Churches in the 21st Century;

Therefore, the National Chinese Caucus of the United Methodist Church strongly affirms the position of the 1996 Book of Discipline, which upholds the teaching of the Bible on the incompatibility of homosexual behavior (¶ 65C, ¶ 65G, ¶ 304.3). We oppose the changing of the stand of the United Methodist Church on homosexual issues. We are against the ordination of self-avowed, practicing homosexuals, as well as the performing of same-sex wedding ceremonies.