

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FEBRUARY 9, 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 952-250-9376

Statement of Orthodox Judaism on Same Sex Marriage

A group of non-Orthodox Minnesota rabbis has publicly asserted that they support same-sex marriage based on “Jewish principles,” and that denying same-sex couples marriage rights “would be a violation of their civil rights.”

The supporters of same-sex marriage claim to speak in the name of Judaism. They do not.

While we are pained by the need to take this public stance, we cannot allow the misrepresentation that same-sex unions are in consonance with the Torah’s prescription for humankind.

Because this group has embraced both the morality of homosexual acts and the radical redefinition of marriage, there is an urgent need to state the position of Jewish religious tradition based on the Torah and the Oral Law which contain the revealed word of G-d.

And so we hereby state, clearly and without qualification, that the Torah forbids homosexual acts, and sanctions only the union of a man and a woman in matrimony.

The group of non-Orthodox rabbis bases its statement on the distortion of two Jewish imperatives: treating all human beings with dignity and coming to the aid of one's brother. Neither concept, however, in any way implies the propriety of sanctioning, much less of celebrating, behavior condemned by the Torah.

Authentic Judaism is not a mirror of society’s shifting mores. While we might be powerless to stem the tide of this shift, we can at least set the record straight about what Judaism stands for.

Rabbi Yechezkel Greenberg
Congregation Bais Yisroel
Minneapolis, MN

Rabbi Chaim Goldberger
Kenesseth Israel Congregation
Minneapolis, MN