

COVENANT RELATIONSHIPS  
To Be Presented to the Body  
Second Reading (from 2015-07-26)  
Fall Sessions 2016

Page 38, starting in the middle of the last paragraph, changes in **bold**:

We joyfully acknowledge the sustaining, enriching presence of loving unions among us, **whether between persons of different or the same sex**, and we want the meeting's strength to undergird these covenants.

[Delete Crowell quotation]

Some of us live alone and find love and community among our friends. Some of us are single parents caring for our children. Some members' families follow traditional patterns; others do not. **Many monthly meetings honor committed gay and lesbian relationships and support or perform same-sex marriages.** Just as there is that of God in every person, there is that of God in every relationship that calls upon God. We seek to treat responsible, loving relationships tenderly and respectfully. We seek to hold each other in the light of our ideal that Spirit-filled covenant relationships are the one sure basis for love and sexuality.

In prayer and worship, each meeting can speak truthfully to the particular needs and difficulties of its members and their relationships. Through committees of clearness, for example, a meeting can respond with great care and concern to requests for marriage that come before it, following the procedures described **elsewhere in this book.**

[Delete rest of paragraph]

Marriage is a covenant intended for life. [Delete rest of paragraph] Families need the support...  
[etc.]