

# Same sex marriage suggested by board of Church of Sweden

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The Central Board of Church of Sweden has decided to propose that the Church Assembly should apply to the state for a continued right to transact marriage in accordance to the new marital law. The new law was implemented May 1 and states that couples of same sex shall be given the same right of marriage as others.



Arch Bishop Anders Wejryd.  
Photo: Anders Tukler - IKON

The Central Board also suggests that the ecclesiastical constitution should be changed in order to make it possible for couples of same sexes to be married, with among else an alternative wording in the wedding ceremony. For example shall the saying 'man and wife' be changed to 'married spouses'.

In the proposition to the Church Assembly it is emphasised that: "the marriage, according to the Evangelical Lutheran view, is a social institution regulated by public authorities. From a perspective of theology of creation, the marriage has the purpose to support the internal relation between spouses and give a safe setting for the children growing up".

Arch Bishop Anders Wejryd says that the commandment of love is superior to other commandments' and prohibitions' in the bible.

"When the Church of Sweden sides on the issue of same sex marriage, the most relevant question is if this hurt or helps people. The Church of Sweden want to support faithful relationships", Wejryd writes in a press release..

The Church Assembly will vote on the proposition this autumn. So far there seems to be a majority supporting the suggestion, the only exception is the group Frimodig Kyrka.

After having being notified about the proposition of the Central Board, they answers that it is problematic in several ways. It goes against what some of the bishops earlier publicly have expressed as their opinion, it could hurt ecumenical relations both at home and abroad and the theological arguments for a change in the ecclesiastical constitution are too weak and not thoroughly debated.

"They are ready to further deepen the rift and wounds of the already greatly strained unity inside the Church of Sweden. With a continued right to transact marriage in accordance to the new marital law the church will be tear to rags further and the question will be if it could be hold together at all", Erik Johansson, priest and member of Frimodig Kyrka, writes in a respons.

### Facts

The Church of Sweden is the largest church in Sweden. Until 2000 it held the position of state church.

The Church adopted, at the time that it was still a state church, an administrative structure largely modelled after the state. The electoral system is the same as used in the parliamentary or municipal elections.

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