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2 Men Wed In Denver Church Rite

By JOAN ZYDA
Denver Post Staff Writer

"I now pronounce you married," the Rev. Robert Sirico told the two young men at the altar of the First Unitarian Church in Denver.

With that, concluding the brief double-ring wedding ceremony, Anthony C. Sullivan, 33, and Richard F. Adams, 28, both from Los Angeles, Calif., kissed.

Sullivan, an unemployed writer, and Adams, who works for a car-rental agency, traveled to Colorado to take advantage of Boulder County's liberal marriage-license policy. Like several other states, California prohibits same-sex marriages.

Their Own Minister

The couple brought along their own minister and confidant, the Rev. Mr. Sirico, pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church in Santa Monica, Calif. The religious denomination claims 85 churches and 35,000 members, mostly gay persons, worldwide.

During the ceremony, the Rev. Mr. Sirico said, in a thundering voice, "Those who God hath joined together, let no one, NO ONE, put asunder." He told the couple to enter into their union "discreetly, honestly, cautiously."

Minutes later, at a press conference in the same church, Sullivan and Adams spoke of their love for each other and how their love would overcome efforts by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service to rule their homosexual marriage illegal and deport Sullivan to his native Australia.

Sullivan, who said he believes he was "born homosexual," met Adams in a gay bar on a visit to Los Angeles in 1971. He said they fell instantly in love and maintained a prolific correspondence when Sullivan, because he was on a tourist visa, had to leave the country, and was allowed to re-enter only every few months.

'Desperation' Move

Finally in 1974, in desperation to remain in the United States, Sullivan said he married an American woman, thereby making him eligible for U.S. citizenship in five years. Immigration officials, however, said citizenship couldn't be granted unless the marriage was consummated.

Sullivan said he and his wife tried living together at that point, but "not only were we physically incompatible, but we were emotionally incompatible." The marriage was annulled last March, and that same month, Sullivan and Adams decided to go public with their romance.

The two men took out their marriage license Monday in Boulder. Later in the day, the Boulder County clerk issued a marriage license to two Denver women—the sixth same-sex license to be issued in the county during the past 30 days.



REV. ROBERT SIRICO PREPARES FOR THE HOLY SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION FOR HIS PARISHIONERS

Richard F. Adams, left, and Anthony C. Sullivan, right, were married by the Rev. Sirico in First Unitarian Church

RTD MEASURE SURVIVES

30 Bills Approved by Senate

The Colorado Senate gave final approval Tuesday to 30 bills, including a measure allowing Douglas County to withdraw from the Regional Transportation District (RTD).

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All of the bills now go to the House Representatives.

The RTD bill, which would allow Douglas County to withdraw from the RTD, is the first of the district's final bills to be approved by the Senate.

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