

Pastor to perform homosexual marriages

As pastor of Seattle's first church organized primarily to minister to the homosexual community, the Rev. Robert Sirico said yesterday he will perform homosexual marriages.

The Metropolitan Community Church of Seattle will have its first service at 11 a. m. May 21 in the Broadway Theater, Mr. Sirico said.

The Seattle church will be linked to the Metropolitan

Community Church of Los Angeles and becomes the 30th church in the nation openly serving homosexuals.

Mr. Sirico, 21, ordained a Pentecostal minister, has been in Seattle for about two years, conducting a service of healing with the support of several Queen Anne churches.

His announcement that he is himself a homosexual and that he is beginning the new



Rev. Robert Sirico

church has led to a split with his backers in the Robert Sirico Foundation. Mr. Sirico said his entire board has resigned.

He said that most of his life, aware he was a homosexual, he took the position that homosexuality was a perversion and condemned in the Bible, but said his views have changed.

Citing in particular First Corinthians 6:9, Mr. Sirico

said he now understands the Bible to condemn "trying to change one's sexual orientation."

State law refusing marriage licenses to adults of the same sex are now under legal attack, Sirico said. He added, however, that as a religious ceremony, homosexual marriages can be performed by an ordained minister.

He said the board of the

Robert Sirico Foundation, organized to support his healing ministry, could not approve of him as a homosexual and considered it a perversion.

In his healing ministry, he said, he had found it impossible to "totally deliver" a person from homosexuality and had seen some become so despairing as to commit suicide.

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