

SAMPLE WEDDING POLICY

The Church adopts this policy to express our beliefs, based on the interpretation of Scripture held by this body of Christ, concerning the proper definition of marriage. We find it necessary to adopt this policy because many persons have tried to re-define marriage so as to make lawful the marriage between two persons of the same sex. Those of us who disagree with this attempt to re-define marriage have been criticized as being bigoted against others and have been derided as engaging in politics. This policy is being adopted to demonstrate that our opposition to this trend is not political, is not based on fear or hatred, but is, instead, firmly grounded in our reading of the Bible's teachings about marriage.

We believe that God ordained marriage as a sacred union between a man and a woman and sexual intimacy should only occur within those bounds.¹

We believe that any attempt to define marriage as something other than the union between a man and a woman is contrary to God's Word. The Bible, further, makes clear that homosexual conduct is contrary to Scripture.²

Because of these beliefs, it is the policy of this Church to prohibit the performance of marriage ceremonies between persons of the same sex on the Church premises and, further, it is our policy that the ministerial staff of this Church shall not officiate at a wedding between two persons of the same sex, on or off Church premises.

We further believe that all have sinned and are in need of God's forgiveness.³ We believe that God's grace is available to all who believe on Him and that whoever accepts His Son, Jesus Christ, will be saved. Accordingly, we believe that Scripture requires that all persons be shown

¹ See Genesis 2:22-24; Proverbs 18:22; Proverbs 19:14; Matthew 19:4-6; Hebrews 13:4-7; Mark 10:6-9.

² See Genesis 19:1-11; Leviticus 18:22; Leviticus 20:13; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6: 9-11; 1 Timothy 1:8-10;

³³ Romans 3:23.

compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity. We recognize that we cannot lead people to Christ if we speak with hatred and anger. We must, therefore, demonstrate Christ's love to all persons and we reject any actions which are not consistent with this spirit.