

ARTICLE ____ – Biblical Sexuality and Marriage

The following principles and guidelines regarding biblical sexuality and marriage are designed to ensure that Name of Church (“the Church”) operates in a manner consistent with the Word of God.

Section 1 – Each human being is created in the image of God as either male or female, a gender that is encoded genetically and manifested physiologically prior to birth. Any effort to violate the creative order of God by attempting to modify or transform human gender or biological sex is sin.

Section 2 - Marriage is the union of one man and one woman. The family units thus formed on these principles provide the foundation of civil society. Since marriage is biblically defined as between one man and one woman, all other unions are sinful, including homosexual or polygamous unions. Beyond marital standards, sexual sin includes, but is not limited to, premarital sexual relations, extramarital sexual relations, incestuous relations, pornography, and pedophilia. Persons engaged in such violations of God's Law, like all other people, should be called to turn from their sin and seek forgiveness through repentance and faith in Christ.

Section 3 - Participation in any program or activity of this Church that is limited to individuals of one sex is exclusively limited to individuals who are persons of that sex. Access to facilities that are designated for use by only one sex is exclusively limited to individuals who are persons of that sex as determined before birth. In complying with these guidelines, individuals should not violate the sovereign act of God in their birth gender by intentionally presenting their physical features or dress to be that of the opposite sex.

Section 4 - Persons who are actively and unrepentantly engaged in any sinful practice or practice that contradicts or undermines the doctrinal standards of this Church are subject to dismissal. Similarly, active and unrepentant engagement in any sinful practice or practice that contradicts or undermines the doctrine of this Church is grounds for discipline, up to and including excommunication. A practice is sinful when it is contrary to the teachings of the Holy Bible.

Section 5 - Except as a vendor or independent contractor, in order to be eligible for employment at the Church, the applicant or employee must be a member of the Church. Since a purpose of the Church is to teach and instill biblical values, and because every employee of the Church is a representative of the Church, in order to be eligible for employment at the Church the applicant shall not be actively engaged in unrepentant sin and shall not be perceived to undermine or contradict, through his or her actions, behaviors, or speech, the tenets of the Bible and the doctrines of this Church.

Section 6 - Church ministers, members, and staff shall not use their title, position, or ordination in a way that contradicts or undermines the teachings of this Church and the Holy Bible by, including but not limited to, officiating over or solemnizing weddings or ceremonies joining more than two people or two people of the same sex.

Section 7 - Neither property nor facilities owned or controlled by the Church (or used with permission obtained by the Church) shall be used or permitted to be used for any activity or speech that is contrary to any stated or implied doctrine or religious belief or practice of this Church.

Section 8 - Weddings and Funerals – [PICK ONE OPTION AND DELETE THE OTHER **Option A:** Weddings and funerals held within the facilities of the Church shall be limited to ceremonies for students, staff, or employees (and their children) of this Church only.] [**Option B:** The Church actively seeks to minister to the surrounding community by making its facilities available for Biblical weddings and funerals. A wedding or a funeral of any person not a student, staff member, or employee is permitted only insofar as the ceremony comports with the teachings of the Holy Bible and the doctrinal standards of this Church. If it becomes evident that a wedding or funeral does not or will not comply with the teachings of the Holy Bible and the doctrinal standards of this Church, the Church may, within its sole discretion, cancel or modify the event, so as to comport with the teachings of the Holy Bible and Church doctrinal standards. In no event shall an unbiblical ceremony be permitted to proceed.]

Section 9 – Any counseling or ministry provided by a pastor or employee of this Church shall be consistent with the Holy Bible and the teachings of this Church. If the counseling sought is or becomes incompatible or inconsistent with the Holy Bible and the teachings of the Church, as determined by the Church within its sole discretion, the Church may decline or terminate the requested counseling or ministry.