

1 **POLICY ON MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY**

2 *Fairview Baptist Church, Apex NC, Revision: 9/20/2015*

3 **INTRODUCTION**

4 This is a policy statement of Fairview Baptist Church regarding religious beliefs concerning
5 marriage and human sexuality and our policies based upon the necessary application of our faith to
6 life and practice.

7 **STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND HUMAN SEXUALITY**

8 We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two
9 distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.)
10 We advocate that persons accept and live according to their God ordained and biological gender.

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12 We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman
13 in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends
14 sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor
15 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be
16 engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

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18 We believe that because of the centrality of our faith, the biblical picture of marriage as a
19 covenant, and the role of the family in the nurturing of faith, it is important for Christian's to marry
20 Christians (1 Cor 7:39, 2 Cor 6:14).

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22 We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual
23 behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God.
24 (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

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26 We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Fairview Baptist Church as the
27 local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the members of Fairview Baptist
28 Church and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Fairview Baptist Church
29 in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Policy on Marriage and
30 Human Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

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32 We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin,
33 seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-
34 11.)

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36 We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity.
37 (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any
38 individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Fairview
39 Baptist Church.

40 **OUR FAITH BASED POLICY ON MARRIAGE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY**

41 As a result of the religious beliefs described above and our belief in the need for the practice of
42 fidelity to these beliefs, it is our policy that the facilities of Fairview Baptist Church may not be used
43 for any ceremony that in any way approves of, solemnizes, supports or allows a same-sex union, a
44 polygamist union, or any union which, in the judgment of the church, is inconsistent with our
45 beliefs. It is also the policy of the church that no pastor or member of the church staff shall officiate
46 at any ceremony designed to solemnize, promote, create, or approve of such a union. Nor may any
47 member of the church enter into such a union without being subject to church discipline.
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49 A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church
50 only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of marriage found in this Policy
51 Statement.

52 **CHURCH POLICY REGARDING HUMAN SEXUALITY**

53 Recognizing that we all struggle with sin, Fairview Baptist Church will provide an environment that
54 welcomes people who struggle with sexual sin. We will seek to love all people in Jesus' name,
55 pointing them towards Christ's power to forgive and heal. While the Bible teaches that those who
56 engage in sexual sins sin against their own body, we also recognize that sexual sin is not
57 characterized in Scripture as being more severe than other forms of sin.
58

59 We will seek God to discern ways that we can directly and indirectly minister and share God's love
60 with those who struggle with every kind of sin. We recognize that there is a difference between
61 temptation and behavior. While temptation is sometimes unavoidable, we are responsible for our
62 behavior.

63 **CHURCH PRACTICES DERIVED FROM THIS POLICY**

64 **CLERGY**

- 65 1. Ordained clergy or licensed ministers employed by the church must affirm the policy on
66 marriage and human sexuality described in this document.
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68 2. Only ordained or duly licensed clergy approved by this church shall officiate at marriage
69 ceremonies conducted on church property.
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71 3. Clergy employed by the church shall be subject to dismissal for violating this policy on
72 marriage and human sexuality or by officiating at a marriage ceremony that violates the letter or
73 the spirit of this policy.

74 **APPLICANTS FOR WEDDINGS PERFORMED BY CHURCH STAFF**

- 75 1. Applicants wishing to have a ceremony performed by a member of the clergy employed or
76 clergy or judiciary approved by the church or to use the church facilities for their wedding must
77 affirm this policy on marriage and human sexuality and shall conduct themselves in a manner
78 that is consistent therewith.
79

80 2. Applicants must participate in premarital counseling by clergy or counselors employed by this
81 church or other persons who, in the sole opinion of the pastoral staff of the church have the
82 appropriate training, experience, and spiritual understanding to provide such counseling. All
83 pastoral staff, counselors or other persons providing premarital counseling must affirm this
84 policy on marriage and human sexuality.

85 USE OF FACILITIES PERTAINING TO WEDDINGS

86 1. Any marriage performed on church premises shall be officiated by an ordained or duly
87 licensed member of the clergy. Any officiant not employed by Fairview Baptist Church shall
88 serve at the discretion of the pastor and staff.

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90 2. Clergy officiating marriage ceremonies on church premises, whether or not employed by the
91 church, must affirm their agreement with the policy on marriage and human sexuality adopted
92 by this church and conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.

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94 3. Clergy and staff assigned by the church to implement the procedures governed by this policy
95 on marriage and human sexuality may, at their discretion, decline to provide church facilities for,
96 and/or decline to officiate at a ceremony when in their judgment, there are significant concerns
97 that one or both of the applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred bond of marriage
98 for theological, doctrinal, moral or legal reasons.

99 MEMBERSHIP, LEADERSHIP, AND STAFF

100 1. Every minister and employee, hired by the church must affirm their agreement with this
101 policy on marriage and human sexuality and conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent
102 therewith.

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104 2. Church officers must affirm their agreement with this policy on marriage and human
105 sexuality and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.

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107 3. Church leaders, teachers and members must affirm their agreement with this policy on
108 marriage and human sexuality and shall teach and live in a manner that is consistent therewith.

109 REVISION HISTORY

Date	Adoption/Amendment Description
Revision: 9/20/2015	Policy ratified by a vote of the membership.

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