

## Definition of Marriage

Christ Covenant, in Matthews, North Carolina, as a member of the Presbyterian Church in America, adheres to the PCA Constitution: *The Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms, and the Book of Church Order (PCA)*. In the *Confession of Faith* a marriage is defined as a legal union between one man (male) and one woman (female)

*Marriage is to be between one man and one woman; neither is it lawful for any man to have more than one wife, nor for any woman to have more than one husband, at the same time.*  
(Westminster Confession of Faith 24-1)

Furthermore, our *Book of Church Order* reinforces this Biblical and Confessional definition of marriage.

*Marriage is a divine institution though not a sacrament, nor peculiar to the Church of Christ. It is proper that every commonwealth, for the good of society, make laws to regulate marriage, which all citizens are bound to obey.* (BCO 59-1)

*Christians should marry in the Lord; therefore, it is fit that their marriage be solemnized by a lawful minister, that special instruction be given them, and suitable prayers offered, when they enter into this relation.* (BCO 59-2)

*Marriage is to be between one man and one woman, in accordance with the Word of God.* (BCO 59-3)

In accordance with the teaching of the Word of God (Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:1-9) and our Constitutional documents, Christ Covenant Church (PCA) will perform only marriages that are:

1. Between a male and a female;
2. Between two professing believers; and
3. Monogamous

Same sex marriages or unions will not be performed or recognized by Christ Covenant Church (PCA).

As a result of this biblical, theological and ethical position, Christ Covenant Church (PCA) and in consistency to our witness, will:

1. Allow only heterosexual couples or individuals to use our facility
2. Allow only heterosexual couples to attend couples' retreats, marriage seminars, or marital counseling

3. Allow only heterosexual couples or individuals to serve as coaches, mentors, chaperones, or leaders in all ministries in both our Church and School (Covenant Day School)

4. Terminate any employee taking part in a same-sex wedding, or entering into a same-sex union, marriage, or relationship, or practicing a homosexual lifestyle.

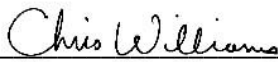
November 18, 2013



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Michael F. Ross

Senior Pastor/Moderator



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Chris Williams

Clerk of Session

Our position and policy is summarized by the following statement:

*We believe that term 'marriage' has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in scripture.*

*We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.*

*We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.*

*We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.*

*We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.*

*We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.*