

## **SEXUAL MORALITY POLICY**

Our mission at Central Baptist Church (the "Church") is to glorify God by introducing Jesus Christ as Lord to as many people as possible and to develop them in Christian living using the most effective means to impact the world, making an eternal difference in this generation. In fulfillment of its mission as the Body of Christ, the Church shall operate under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and be governed by His laws. The Bible (Scripture) is the authority for all matters of faith and practice in the Church, and the Church shall operate in accordance with Scriptural principles specifically relating to marriage, the family and sexual morality. We believe the Church's Sexual Morality Policy is based upon God's will for human life as conveyed to us through the Holy Scriptures, upon which this Church has been founded and anchored, and this Policy shall not be subject to change through popular vote referendum; prevailing opinion of members or the general public; influence of or interpretation by any government authority, agency, or official action; or legal developments on the local, state, or federal level.

We believe God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is comprised of persons related to one another by marriage, blood or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His Church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The exercise of sexual expression outside the biblical definition of marriage in any manner, including, but not limited to, homosexuality, adultery, or extramarital sex, or cohabitation, is contradictory to the teachings of Scripture and the principles governing the Church. The Church will address circumstances involving deviation from these biblical principles in accordance with Scripture as interpreted by the Pastor.

In the event a member or applicant for membership is engaged in any sexual practices contradictory to Scripture, the Church may attempt to counsel or minister to such person in a spirit of love and compassion but tempered with justice and the requirements of the Church. The Church may elect to deny a request for membership and/or exercise appropriate Church discipline as outlined in Scripture. In the event the person demonstrates satisfactory evidence of repentance and resolution of the condition at issue, the Church may elect to accept the person's request for membership or restore the person's membership.

Likewise, if it reasonably appears to the Church that the general welfare of the Church, its members or employees are jeopardized by the conduct of any person inconsistent with the mission or principles of the Church, including but not limited to, those principles described herein including the exercise of sexual expression outside the biblical definition of marriage in any manner, the Church may take those actions it deems appropriate and necessary in accordance with Scripture, including, but not limited to, disallowing the person from accessing or entering the facilities and/or property belonging to the Church (the "Property").

Additionally, it is the policy of the Church that all of the Church's assets and Property shall be used to glorify God in fulfillment of the mission of the Church. Accordingly, the Church may disallow any use of the Property, formal or informal, by those affiliated with the Church or otherwise, inconsistent with the mission or principles of the Church, including, but not limited to, those principles described herein. For example, the Church may refuse to host a wedding ceremony in which the bride and groom are acting outside the biblical definition of marriage, or the Church may refuse to allow groups who do not hold the values or adhere to the principles of the Church to utilize the Property.