

Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

Gender Identity

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

Marriage

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in the Holy Scripture of the Old and New Testaments. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4.)

Sexuality

We believe that God has 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 (including but not limited to adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, polygamy and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Lumber River Conference of the Holiness Methodist Church (LRCHMC) as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to LRCHMC members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by LRCHMC in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin by seeking His mercy and forgiveness through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11.) We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with the Holy Scripture nor the doctrines of Lumber River Conference of the Holiness Methodist Church. Yet our strong and unmovable belief in these same Holy Scriptures dictate that we yield to no one in doctrine save the Scriptures as they are found contained in the Old and New Testaments without outside prejudice or privilege.