

ICBC MARRIAGE AND CIVIL UNION

Date approved: July 2017

Review date: 2020

1. The Bible

- 1.1 We begin by affirming our unequivocal belief in “The inspiration of the Bible and its authority in all matters of faith and practice”. (First point in the Articles of Faith as set out in the Baptist Union Act of Incorporation 1923.)
- 1.2 We affirm that the incarnate Word (Jesus) and the written Word (the Bible) are of one accord and cannot be separated.
- 1.3 We affirm that the Bible, which includes the teachings of Jesus, has an overall clarity in its teaching on marriage and sexual morality which can be summarised as “celibacy in singleness, faithfulness in marriage, marriage to be defined as a union between one man and one woman.”

2 Sexuality and Marriage

- 2.1 We affirm that God made human beings as sexual beings, and that human sexuality is God's good gift to us.
- 2.2 We affirm that marriage is the legal, moral and spiritual union of a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.
- 2.3 We affirm that God intended marriage to be a partnership, in which husband and wife love, honour and respect each other, and that this is the biblical context for sexual intimacy.
- 2.4 We affirm that sexual intimacy between husband and wife is good, and is intended by God for bonding, pleasure and procreation.
- 2.5 We affirm that marriage, between one man and one woman, is the ideal and God-intended context in which to conceive and rear children.
- 2.6 We affirm that the Church ought to do all in its power to uphold the importance and sanctity of marriage as a loving, life-long union between one man and one woman.
- 2.7 We acknowledge that in this broken world, distortions can occur in the expression of human sexuality, and we affirm our concern and love for those who are in situations of distortions or brokenness

3 Marriage Ceremonies

- 3.1 The Pastoral Staff (or Lead Pastor) are given authority to accept requests for marriage ceremonies to be held in our premises and with due pastoral care determine for whom they will make themselves available for the conducting of such ceremonies.

4 Civil Unions

Given the above we cannot condone the practice of civil unions and will not allow the use of our church premises or properties for such ceremonies.

5 Same Sex Marriages

- 5.1 Given the above, we cannot condone the practice of same-sex marriage and will not allow the use of our church premises or properties for such ceremonies.