

Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

We believe God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, both of which 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.

We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning: The uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union (Gen. 2:18-25). We believe God intends sexual intimacy only between a man and a woman married to each other (1 Cor. 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4.)

God's will is that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman. Any sexual immorality (adultery, premarital sex, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, or incest) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 19:4-5; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

In order to preserve the function and integrity of New Braunfels Bible Church as a local Body of Christ, and provide a biblical role model to New Braunfels Bible Church members and the community, all persons employed by New Braunfels Bible Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, must 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 every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). We repudiate any hateful or harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any person; this is not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of New Braunfels Bible Church.

Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, physically or mentally challenged

persons, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Ps 139).

Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible, as the inspired and infallible Word of God, is the final authority concerning truth, morality, and proper conduct, and is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of New Braunfels Bible Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the church's Board of Elders is New Braunfels Bible Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Criteria for Employees of New Braunfels Bible Church

All employees of New Braunfels Bible Church must sign a statement affirming that they agree with the organization's statement of faith, including its statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality, and Sanctity of Human Life, and that they will comply with the church's standards of conduct. Any violation of New Braunfels Bible Church's Statement of Faith, or Code of Conduct, is grounds to terminate employment and involvement in the church's ministry.

Personal Conduct Policy

The Purpose of New Braunfels Bible Church is to "glorify God by being and making disciples of Jesus Christ."

As a community of believers in Jesus Christ dedicated to this purpose, the elders, deacons, pastoral staff, and all other employees and members of New Braunfels Bible Church commit ourselves as a church to the cultivation of biblical truth, Christian living, and sacrificial love consistent with the character and person of Jesus Christ. We commit ourselves to seek God's wisdom in Scripture as we seek to honor Christ in the following areas:

- We commit ourselves to the biblical model of sexual purity expressed through either celibacy in singleness or fidelity in Christian marriage as a sacred union between one man and one woman. (See Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality.)
- We commit ourselves to maintain a drug-free, alcohol-free, and tobacco-free environment with respect to all church facilities, events, and activities, with the exception of liturgical or medicinal uses of alcohol.
- We commit ourselves to carefully exercise Christian freedom with regard to the use of alcohol or tobacco, guarding against the misuse of any substances that might abuse our bodies, foster addictions, or cause others to stumble.
- We commit ourselves to Scriptural principles concerning the use of financial resources entrusted to us by God, both in our personal finances, and in our giving to God.
- We commit ourselves to a standard of appearance and conversation that reflects Christian modesty, maturity, discretion, and respect.
- We commit, within the context of our theological convictions and mission, not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, national and ethnic origin, or disability, and to take active measures against discriminatory harassment, and sexual harassment, including any type of violence or misconduct.

As we strive toward these goals, we acknowledge our own weakness, and our constant need for God's grace as we face challenges to living obedient spiritual lives in the world. When fellow believers are caught in sinful practices, we are committed to responding with grace, not condemnation (Gal. 6.1; Jas. 5.19-20). While encouraging repentance and confession, and exercising redemptive discipline when necessary, we are committed to graciously, lovingly, gently, yet firmly seeking to restore them to fellowship with the Lord, and with the body of Christ.

Use of Church Facilities

New Braunfels Bible Church's facilities are a gift of God, provided through the benevolence and sacrificial generosity of church members. The church desires that its facilities be used for the fellowship of the

Body of Christ and to bring God glory. Church facilities are not generally open to the public, but may occasionally be available to approved non-members when such use fits with the purpose and goals of New Braunfels Bible Church.

Use of the New Braunfels Bible Church facilities is not permitted to persons or groups holding, advancing, or advocating beliefs or practices in conflict with the church's statement of faith or moral teachings contained in, among other places, the church's Constitution and Bylaws, Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality, Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life, and Personal Conduct Policy. Nor may church facilities be used for activities deemed inconsistent with the church's faith or moral teachings. The Board of Elders is the final decision-maker concerning use of church facilities.

This restrictive facility use policy is necessary for two reasons. First, the church cannot in good conscience materially cooperate in activities or beliefs that are contrary to its faith. Allowing its facilities to be used for purposes that contradict church beliefs would be material cooperation with that activity, and violate of the church's faith and religious practice (2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Thess. 5:22).

Second, it is important that New Braunfels Bible Church present a consistent message to the community, and that those who represent the church conscientiously maintain that message as part of their witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Allowing facilities to be used by groups or persons who express beliefs or engage in practices contrary to the church's faith would negatively impact the message the church strives to promote. It could also cause confusion and scandal to church members and the community because they may reasonably perceive that by allowing use of our facilities, the church agrees with the beliefs or practices of the persons or groups using its facilities.

Therefore, in no event shall persons or groups who hold, advance, or advocate beliefs, or advance, advocate, or engage in practices that contradict the church's faith use any church facility. Nor may church facilities be used in any way that contradicts the church's faith. This

policy applies to all church facilities, regardless of whether the facilities are connected to the church's sanctuary, because the church sees all of its property as dedicated to the worship of God (Col 3:17).

Approved Users and Priority of Use: The senior pastor, or official designee, under the leadership of the Board of Elders, must approve all uses of church facilities. Generally, priority shall be given to church members, their immediate families, and organized groups that are part of the ministry, organization, or sponsored activities of the church. Church facilities and equipment may be made available to non-members or outside groups, but *all* users and uses of the church facilities must meet the following qualifications:

1. Groups or persons requesting facility use must affirm that their beliefs and practices and planned uses of the facilities are consistent with the church's faith and practice.
2. The group or person seeking facility use must submit a signed "Church Facility Reservation Request and Agreement" form, which must be approved by all pertinent staff and elders.
3. The group or person seeking use of the facility must be willing to take responsibility for the facilities and equipment used and must agree to abide by the church's rules of conduct for facility use, as described in any additional instructions by church staff.

Policies for Weddings Conducted at NBBC

Preamble: Marriage, once an expected and anticipated life event for young people growing up in America, is often considered unnecessary and meaningless today. The prevalence of divorce, and confusion about marriage resulting from societal changes, has undermined the institution of marriage, resulting in political and legal challenges to historical and traditional marriage practice. In view of our unwavering commitment to obey the will of God contained in the literal teaching of the Bible, New Braunfels Bible Church sets forth these statements of belief on marriage, and policies for any and all weddings conducted under the auspices of New Braunfels Bible Church.

1. Believing that marriage is an institution created by God, that it was established at creation by God, and that it is enshrined in the New Covenant as a reflection of the relationship between Christ and His Church, all weddings conducted under the auspices of New Braunfels Bible Church will reflect the spiritual roots of marriage, and be intentionally "Christian" in all facets of the ceremony.
2. Believing that marriage as an institution, as established by God at creation, is between *only* one man (male by birth) and one woman (female by birth), and that no other arrangements, including homosexual marriage, polygamous marriage, or any other combination of persons or genders, reflect God's creation plan, all weddings under the auspices of New Braunfels Bible Church will be between one man (male by birth) and one woman (female by birth).
3. In view of the prevalence of divorce, and desiring to provide couples getting married with the greatest opportunity for success, we are committed to having all couples getting married in a ceremony conducted under the auspices of New Braunfels Bible Church undergo a period of pre-marital counseling conducted by pastoral staff or other spiritual leaders of this church. If outside pre-marital counseling that honors the biblical foundations of marriage is provided, this prerequisite may be waived.
4. All weddings conducted under the auspices of New Braunfels Bible Church will be led by an elder or pastoral staff member of the church, or if by another pastor or celebrant, only after he is approved by elders and pastoral staff. In each case, all stipulations and guidelines listed herein are to be followed without exception.

Desiring to honor the institution of marriage and its establishment by God, we will seek to reflect the highest standards for all weddings conducted under the auspices of New Braunfels Bible Church, bearing in mind biblical teaching on the permanence of marriage, marriage and divorce, and believers not being 'unequally yoked' with unbelievers.