Statement on Marriage and Sexuality

We believe marriage is a gift of God and has been given to mankind as the original and foundational institution of human society (Gen. 2:18-24). Scripture speaks of marriage approvingly only when it is between one man and one woman in a single, covenanted, exclusive and life-long union (Matt. 19:1-6). It is designed to reflect the relationship between Christ and His Church (Ephesians 5:21-33; 2 Corinthians 6:14).

We believe the Bible speaks clearly about God’s disapproval of all types of sexual intimacy outside of the bounds of marriage, as defined above (for example, 1 Corinthians 7:1-5; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; Ephesians 5:3-5; 1 Timothy 1:9-10; Hebrews 13:4; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Leviticus 18:6-23).

Humans are created in the image of God as males and females and are to be treated with respect, love, and dignity. However, we live in a fallen world, and all are sinners (Romans 3:23). Sometimes it is necessary for the maturing and building up of the saints to speak the truth of the Bible in love, regardless of how that truth is perceived at the time by those outside the Church (Ephesians 5:11-16). Such speaking of Scriptural truth is not hate-speech, but an expression of love and concern as we attempt to point out the sinful behavior in order that the sinning party might repent and return to obedience to God. We believe that sexual sin, like any other sin, can be forgiven if the sinner is redeemed through faith in Jesus Christ and made a new creature (1 Corinthians 5:17-21).

Although we are citizens of this world and encourage our members to participate in its community and governmental processes in a manner that reflects Biblical beliefs and values, it is not the role of the Church to judge those outside of the Church, but to promote purity within it (1 Corinthians 5:9-13). To that end, the Board of Elders affirms that it would be a violation of the Biblical beliefs of this Body of Christians meeting at The Central Christian Church of Wichita, Kansas (CCC) for it to facilitate or condone any form of sexual conduct that falls outside the realm of what we teach to be acceptable to God, as revealed in the Bible. Only marriages consistent with this statement of belief will be conducted within the facilities of CCC or by its pastors or staff.