

Pendleton First Assembly of God

Statement and Policy on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Pendleton First Assembly of God sternly believes the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in the Bible (Genesis 2:18-25). We strongly believe God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). All sexual activity outside the marriage relationship, as defined by scripture (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is immoral and therefore sinful (Genesis 2:24-25; Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:22-23; 20:13; Matthew 19:4-6, 9; Romans 1:18-31; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 15-20; 1 Timothy 1:8-11, Jude 7).

We strongly believe God has created two distinct and complementary genders, male and female and each person is created in accordance with God’s perfect design. These two distinct complementary genders together **reflect the image of God** (Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 19:4). Rejection of one’s biological birth gender is a denial of the image of God within that person.

We strongly believe to preserve the function and integrity of Pendleton First Assembly of God, and to provide a biblical role model to its adherents and our society, it is imperative that all persons employed by Pendleton First Assembly of God in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this statement on marriage, Gender and Sexuality (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22).

No minister, member or adherent of Pendleton First Assembly of God shall perform any type of marriage, cohabitation or covenant ceremony for persons who are of the same sex. Such ceremony would endorse homosexuality which is a sin and strictly forbidden in God’s Word (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26, 27; I Corinthians 6:9; I Timothy 1:9-11). Any minister, member or adherent of Pendleton First Assembly of God who performs a ceremony for these types of disapproved relations, unless innocently deceived into doing so, will be subject to church discipline.

We strongly believe God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10). Every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity (Mark 17:28-31); Luke 6:30). Hateful, harassing, and bullying behavior or attitudes directed towards any individual will not be tolerated.

For a more thorough description of our Statement of Faith regarding Marriage, Gender and Sexuality refer to the following Assemblies of God Positions Papers: Homosexuality, Marriage, and Sexual Identity and Transgenderism, Transsexuality, and Gender Identity.

STANDARD OF CONDUCT POLICY

In accordance with Pendleton First Assembly of God’s statement of faith in recognition of biblical commands, the following will not be tolerated in any form and will constitute grounds for discipline: any actions or identifying statements concerning the change of one’s gender since birth, adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography. In discipline situations, all individuals will be treated with dignity and respect, free of threat or harassment.

We reserve the right to refuse admission, dismiss, or exclude any individual from attending a Pendleton First Assembly of God activity or ministry event if he/she is out of harmony with our Statement of Faith, the spirit, or the policies of Pendleton First Assembly of God.

Board Review July 1, 2019