

**Statement on Homosexual Marriage**  
***Immanuel Leidy's Church Spiritual Council***

Because of the times in which we live, when there are those who seek to redefine the institution of marriage, it is the conviction of the Spiritual Council of Immanuel Leidy's Church that we are bound by our faith, our conscience, and the congregation where we serve God that we must state our convictions concerning this issue.

We believe the universe exists because of the creation of God, and that His rule extends to all portions of the universe, including our planet and our continent and our country. By the mercies of God He has chosen to make His will known through the sixty six books of Holy Writ normally termed the Bible. His will as revealed in the Bible is binding on His people and is the means by which He will judge all humans on that great day when all are called to render an account of their deeds done in the flesh.

Among the important truths that God has declared to mankind are those relating to the institution of marriage. Marriage was instituted by God and is ordained and defined by Him as the lifelong union of one man and one woman. Through this union God has willed for children to be born and raised to His glory, for human sexual desires to be satisfied in legitimate, biblically-sanctioned fashion, and for the married couple to enjoy the various benefits and blessings of a monogamous, faithful, caring, and mutually fulfilling life under His providential care.

In addition, the Scriptures speak of homosexual relationships as contrary to nature, indeed, to be an expression of unnatural desires, and as such forbidden by God. We understand homosexual marriages to be an offense to God and a distortion of God's intended purpose in ordaining the institution of marriage. Therefore, we will not permit any marriages between members of the same sex to be conducted under our authority.

In making this statement we intend no animus towards those who identify themselves as homosexuals. We believe homosexuals are, like everyone else, sinners and in need of redemption through the mercies of the Lord Jesus. Jesus came into the world to save sinners, and it is our desire to see such salvation effected as widely as possible. Without acknowledgment of sin it is impossible for salvation to be effected. Thus, in Christian love and

in the obedience of faith, we are obligated to speak on the issue of homosexuality and homosexual marriages unless we would ignore God's clear command. In like fashion, we have spoken in the past and issued Statements of Conviction about other areas of human sexuality, including sins such as adulterous, heterosexual thoughts and behavior. Now we must speak about homosexual marriage as detailed in this Statement on Homosexual Marriage.

Adopted: November 9, 2004