

Southern PA District Policy on Issues Pertaining to Same Sex Ceremonies

The Southern PA District Church of the Brethren:

Reaffirms the denominational position that “covenantal relationships between homosexual persons is[sic] an additional lifestyle option but, in the church’s search for a Christian understanding of human sexuality, this alternative is not acceptable” (1983 Annual Conference Statement, Human Sexuality from a Christian Perspective); and

a. Affirms that ordained, commissioned, or licensed ministers are prohibited from performing or officiating, in any same sex marriages, weddings, or commitment ceremonies;

b. Affirms that regardless of state and federal laws, marriage is a God-ordained covenant that can only be entered into by one genetically born man and one genetically born woman;

c. Affirms that the use of Southern PA District buildings, camps, properties, or churches for the use of same-sex weddings, commitment ceremonies, or post ceremony celebrations is prohibited;

d. Affirms a commitment to extend Christ-like love, grace, and redemptive help to LGBT persons in the spirit of the 1983 Annual Conference Statement, Human Sexuality from a Christian Perspective;

e. Affirms a commitment to the 2008 Ethics in Ministry Relations paper as our guideline for ministerial conduct;

f. Affirms a commitment to be guided by the word of God, the example of Jesus, and the leading of the Holy Spirit in matters of Christian conduct.

The Southern PA District upholds the statements, papers, polity, and policy of the Church of the Brethren denomination.

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