

MARRIAGE POLICY OF
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

WHEREAS, First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio (the “Church”) was formed in 1846 and has, throughout its history, administered the rite of marriage in accordance with the teaching of Scripture; and

WHEREAS, when God created Adam and Eve, He ordained marriage as the fundamental institution of society and a relationship between a man and a woman:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said to them ‘Be fruitful and multiply...’ (Genesis 1:27-28)

Therefore, a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh (Genesis 2:24); and

WHEREAS, Jesus said:

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one. So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder (Matthew 19:4-6); and

WHEREAS, we understand marriage to be a covenant between one man and one woman in submission to God (Malachi 2:14-16) and as a lifelong covenant (Matthew 22:23-30; Mark 10:9); and

WHEREAS, we believe God has ordained marriage for the following ends:

- a. To glorify God (Genesis 1:26-28);
- b. As the consummation of the redeeming grace of God in Christ (Ephesians 5:22-33);
- c. To provide for the nurturing and training of children (Genesis 1:28; Ephesians 6:4);
- d. To affirm the proper context of human sexuality (Hebrews 13:4); and

WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul analogizes marriage between a man and a woman to the relationship between Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:25-27), and affirms the teachings of the Old Testament and the words of Jesus Christ when he states:

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one. This is a great mystery, and I take it to mean Christ and the church; however, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Ephesians 5:31-33); and

WHEREAS, this Church has historically administered the rite of marriage as the union of one man and one woman, in accordance with the historical teachings of Holy Scripture;

WHEREAS, the familiar text of the wedding liturgy states, “Dearly beloved, we are assembled here in the presence of God to join this man and this woman in Holy marriage, which is instituted by God, regulated by his commandments and to be held in honor among all;”

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, the SESSION of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO, restate, reaffirm and adopt as the official policy of this Church the following:

1. Marriage is ordained by God and defined by Scripture;
2. Marriage is a rite of the Church to be administered in accordance with the historical and traditional teachings of Scripture and this historical practices of this Church;
3. A marriage ceremony in the Church is religious matter and is separate and distinct from marriage as defined by civil law, and is to be administered in accordance with the traditional and historical religious beliefs and teachings as expressed in Holy Scripture;
4. Marriage is the joining of one man and one woman to become one and is a union before God;
5. All marriages or weddings performed at this Church by any pastor shall be between one man and one woman in accordance with teachings of Scripture, the historic Confessions of the Presbyterian Church, and as set forth in this policy; and
6. This policy shall be included in the minutes of the Session and published as an official policy of this Church.

Adopted and approved by the Session of First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio on this 9th day of February, 2015.



Rev. John Seiders, Moderator



Norton A. Stuart, III, Clerk