

Position Statement Concerning Marriage, Homosexuality, and the Church
Canadian Chinese Lutheran Ministry Conference
Rev. David Tin, Chair

1. Affirmation of Marriage

We believe that the divine and blessed estate of marriage “is a covenant of fidelity—a dynamic, lifelong commitment of one man and one woman in a personal and sexual union” (taken from the 1970 LCA statement *Sex, Marriage and the Family*).

Rationale:

a. We uphold that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, through which God still speaks, and are the only source of the Church's doctrine and the authoritative standard for the faith and life of the Church; and

b. that the Scriptures testify that God created the gift of sexuality (Genesis 1:27 and 2:21-24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:28-33); and

c. that the Scriptures clearly teach that marriage is a life-long bond of faithfulness between one man and one woman and the context for which sexual intercourse is reserved (1 Corinthians 6:15-20; Hebrews 13:4; Galatians 5:16-19, Jude 1:7).

2. Concerning same-sex sexual intimacy

We believe that in accordance with biblical teaching and standard, the practice of same-sex sexual intimacy, consensual or otherwise, is sinful, and, accordingly, we believe that same-sex marriage and the blessing of same-sex relationships is outside of God’s will.

Rationale:

a. We uphold that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, through which God still speaks, and are the only source of the Church's doctrine and the authoritative standard for the faith and life of the Church; and

b. that in neither Old nor New Testament is same-sex sexual intimacy, consensual or otherwise, cast in a positive light, but rather is called forbidden, unnatural, and sin (Genesis 18:16-19:29; Lev. 18:22; Lev. 20:13; Judges 19:22-23; Matthew 15:19-20; Romans 1:24-27; 1 Cor 6:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:9-11); and

c. We uphold that the Scriptures testify that according to God’s created order, marriage is a holy union between one man and woman only (Genesis 1-2) and that God intends that this created order for marriage, of one man and one woman, form the basic family unit for human society.

3. Concerning homosexuals and the church

Along with all people, we are sinners and require God’s love, forgiveness, and regeneration. We believe that all sinners are children of God and, as such, ought to receive the love, acceptance and pastoral care of the Church. The Church is called upon to show Christ-like compassion to those who have fallen into sexual sin, encouraging them to repent and receive forgiveness, and offering the ministry of healing and Christian community to all who suffer physically or emotionally as a result of such sin.