

## Resolution Affirming Biblical Human Sexuality

In God's infinite wisdom of design for procreation, a divine scope was established involving the physiological dynamics of male and female interaction within a covenanted relationship that would result in offspring to both celebrate newness of life and the continuation of this process.

**Whereas:** this divine process is biblically ordained, *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them,"* Genesis 1:27.

**Whereas:** this marvelous process of new life originating from the action of a male and a female is wonderfully affirmed by Jesus: *"For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder,"* Matthew 19:5-6.

**Whereas:** the misuse of this biblical process is acknowledged by Apostle Paul to be unnatural, *"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature. And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman,"* Romans 1:26-27.

**Whereas:** the Church of the Brethren also acknowledged this biblical process in their Annual Conference statement of 1983, Human Sexuality from a Christian Perspective, *"The Church of the Brethren upholds the biblical declaration that heterosexuality is the intention of God for creation. Nature, in the very functional compatibility of male and female genitalia, confirms this biblical revelation that males and females are meant for each other. This intimate genital contact between two persons of opposite sexes is not just a physical union; it also embodies the interlocking of persons. This intimate companionship is heterosexuality at its fullest. It is the context for the formation of family."*

**Whereas:** the Church of the Brethren additionally acknowledged this biblical process in their Annual Conference statement of 2002, Licensing/Ordination of Homosexual Persons, *"Therefore, we consider it inappropriate to license or ordain to the Christian ministry any persons who are known to be engaging in homosexual practices, and will not recognize the licensing and ordination of such persons in the Church of the Brethren."*

**Whereas:** the Church of the Brethren continues to acknowledge this biblical process in their Annual Conference decision of 2011, Language on Same-Sex Covenantal Relationships, that it be returned to its origin, and further reaffirmed the entire 1983 statement on Human Sexuality.

**Whereas:** we continue to pray that the biblical process for human sexuality would be affirmed by all brothers and sisters in the church of Jesus Christ.

**Whereas:** we lament the lack of discipline by denominational leadership to curtail the purposeful circumvention of this biblical process by ministers performing same-sex unions in direct violation of Annual Conference statements and their own vows of ordination.

**We resolve,** as members of the Bunkertown Church of the Brethren, to persevere in advocating with love and forbearance, the biblical process of human sexuality for procreation through the God designed interaction of one male and one female within a covenanted relationship; and further resolve to educate by the incorporation of Holy Scriptures that all relationships for human sexuality avoiding this divine process are biblically unsound.

August 28, 2016: Resolution adopted by the Bunkertown Church of the Brethren.

C. Douglas Shellenberger, Board Chair

Wes Stahl, Pastor