

## **ARTICLE IIX. STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**Section 8.01. Statement of Biblical Authority:** The Holy Bible, as the inspired Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of believers, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Board of Directors, in consultation with the pastoral leadership, is the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

**Section 8.02. Statement on Marriage and Sexuality:** God ordained marriage as a covenantal union between one genetic male and one genetic female, which He established at creation and which the Lord Jesus Christ and His apostles affirmed. (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15-25; Matthew 19:4-6; Colossians 3:18-22; Hebrews 13:4) Therefore, we believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning and that meaning is sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. Men and women are made in the image of God and therefore, have equal dignity and worth, and the union of marriage is to reflect the union between Christ and the Church.

**A) Sexual Immorality:** Any form of intimate sexual activity outside the bounds of Holy matrimony is sexual immorality. We believe the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with biblical teaching and is a form of sexual immorality. We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexual conduct, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

**B) Ministry Duty of All Church Leaders, Employees, and Volunteers:** We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to the Aldersgate Church of Nixa Statement of Faith and Statement on Marriage and Sexuality, and conduct themselves accordingly, as they are each operating in a ministerial capacity as role models and leaders within the Church and community.

**C) Redemption:** We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and turn away from their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 6:11) We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the Church.