

The church shall recognize the termination of a person's membership following his or her death, and it shall also recognize the termination of a person's membership following his or her self-professed apostasy as confirmed by congregational vote. Additionally, the church may recognize the termination of a person's membership after he or she has voluntarily resigned or joined with another church. Membership may also be terminated as an act of church discipline (ordinarily, but not necessarily, at the recommendation of the elders) upon the vote of at least two-thirds of the members present at any regular or special meeting of the members. The church shall have the authority to refuse a member's voluntary resignation or transfer of membership to another church, either to proceed with a process of church discipline or for any other biblical reason.

* for more information see our *Church Covenant*.

STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, without any errors or confusion, according to His will. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God ([Genesis 1:26-27](#)). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture ([Genesis 2:18-25](#)). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other ([1 Corinthians 6:18](#); [7:2-5](#); [Hebrews 13:4](#)). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God ([Matthew 15:18-20](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9-10](#)).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role

model to its members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this *Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality* ([Matthew 5:16](#); [Philippians 2:14-16](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:22](#)).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ ([Acts 3:19-21](#); [Romans 10:9-10](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#)).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity ([Mark 12:28-31](#); [Luke 6:31](#)). 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 HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH.

We believe that because of our expressed views above and the clear teaching of Scripture, it is sinful for a professing Christian to attend an LGBTQ ceremony ([Ephesians 5:11](#), [1 Corinthians 5:9](#)) and that it is, in fact, not being loving to those participating in it ([1 Corinthians 13:6](#)).

CHURCH COVENANT

INTRODUCTION:

A church covenant is a promise. It is a promise made to God and one another by a group of Christians. It is a promise to live together distinctly as Christians, by God's grace. From their earliest gatherings in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries congregational and especially Baptist churches have written and taken church covenants. They were commonly taken verbally by new members of the church (sometimes even signed) and were regularly read together by members of the church before taking communion. A church covenant is a statement of how we pledge, by God's grace, to live out the Christian faith together.

HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH COVENANT:

“Having been brought by the Holy Spirit to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ according to the will of the Father, and having been baptized in