

## **Doctrinal Addendum to the Westminster Standards regarding Marriage, Gender, Sexuality and the Sanctity of Life**

We believe and stand upon, as our statement of faith, the Westminster Standards, including the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Westminster Larger Catechism, and the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

But because of the current cultural climate, we have also adopted several doctrinal positions in conjunction with the Westminster Standards.

### **Of Human Sexuality**

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 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. (Gen 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 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in 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. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of GCC as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the GCC members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by GCC in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this statement on Marriage, Gender, Sexuality and the Sanctity of Life. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 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; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 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 GCC.

### **Of Gender**

Man and woman are created by God in His image and likeness. (Gen 1:27.) This means that "[m]an and woman have been created, which is to say, willed by God: on the one hand, in perfect equality as human persons; on the other, in their respective beings as man and woman. 'Being man' or 'being woman' is a reality which is good and willed by God: man and woman possess an inalienable dignity, which comes to them immediately from God their Creator. Man and woman are both with one and the same dignity 'in the image of God.' In their 'being-man' and 'being-woman,' they reflect the Creator's wisdom and goodness." Therefore, to reject one's biological gender is to reject the work of the Creator and to imply that God made a mistake. God does not make mistakes.

### Of Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Deut 30:19; Ps 139.)

### Of Abortion

We believe the Scriptures teach that human life begins at conception and that an unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. All abortion is murder, even in the case of incest and rape. (Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24, 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5,20:15-18.)

### Of Euthanasia

The 1988 PCA position paper on 'heroic measures' states that 'Euthanasia, or 'mercy-killing' of a patient by a physician or by anyone else, including the patient himself (suicide) is murder. To withhold or to withdraw medical treatment does not constitute euthanasia and should not be placed into the same category with it.

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