Statement on Marriage, Divorce, and Sexuality
Crossroads Church

Recognizing that all of us are by nature and choice, sinners, Crossroads Church will provide an environment that welcomes people who acknowledge their battles with temptation and sin and who have a desire to experience victory over their sin. We will seek to love all people in Jesus' name, pointing them towards Christ's power to redeem, transform, forgive and heal. We will seek God and His Word to discern ways that we can directly and indirectly minister and share God's love and the hope we have in Christ with those who struggle with every kind of sin.

Crossroads Church upholds the biblical view of marriage. We believe that God designed marriage to be a covenant relationship between one man and one woman, as biologically defined at birth, for life, plainly seen at the creation of Adam and Eve (Genesis 2:24) and reaffirmed by Jesus (Matthew 19:3-6). While we recognize that secular government and the society at large may adopt and approve other forms of marriage, Crossroads does not. We believe plural marriage (polygamy), same-sex marriage, and transgender marriage are all outside of God's design for marriage and are not recognized by this fellowship, regardless of the legality of such relationships in any civil jurisdiction. Accordingly, while individuals practicing, promoting or supporting relationships not in line with this position are welcome to attend Crossroads and are invited to avail themselves of the forgiveness and grace of God in Christ, they are not eligible for membership or serving in ministry or leadership positions.

Divorce always is the result of departing from God's plan for marriage, and it causes pain that affects more than the couple involved. We are committed to the preservation of healthy marriages and the prevention of divorce. We believe it is a Christian's duty to preserve the gift of marriage and agree to walk through the steps of marriage reconciliation when the marriage is troubled. We as a church ask every member before pursuing divorce from your spouse, to seek fervent prayer and God's wisdom, to inform an Elder, and to agree to counseling before pursuing a divorce. The Elders stand ready and willing to direct the couple to counseling in pursuit of the reconciliation process (Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11). To understand the reason for the church to intervene in the process of divorce, see Paul's concern in 1 Corinthians 6 for the resolution of legal matters within the assembly of the church before it goes to court. We also desire that Crossroads will be a place where those affected by divorce can find healing and redemption rather than judgment and condemnation (Galatians 6:1-2).

We call on all Christians to joyfully live in obedience to God's Word and its teachings on sexuality and marriage by practicing complete chastity unless married and, if married, complete fidelity within heterosexual and monogamous marriage. Complete chastity and fidelity means, among other things, that regardless of marital status, the Christian will pursue purity and abstain from sexually immoral practices such as adultery, homosexuality, premarital sex and pornography (Romans 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, 10:8; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4). The Bible teaches that there is a uniqueness in sexual sin, that it is sin against one's own body. We recognize that there is a difference between temptation and behavior and while temptation and attraction are sometimes unavoidable, we are always responsible for our behavior. We remind all that through Christ and what He accomplished on the Cross, faithfulness and obedience can be the daily experience for Christians.

> **11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, **12** training us to renounce
> ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the
> present age, **13** waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and
> Savior Jesus Christ, **14** who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify
> for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.
> Titus 2:11–14 (ESV)

09.17.15

Crossroads Church Policies Concerning Marriage & Celebrations

Based On Our "Statement on Marriage, Divorce, & Sexuality"

The beliefs stated in these pages are based upon our sincere interpretation of Scripture. The policies flow out of our beliefs and are all an expression of our "free exercise" of religious beliefs as stated in the 1st amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

As a result of these above described beliefs and our belief in the need for fidelity to these beliefs, it is our policy that the facilities of this church may not be used for any ceremony that in any way approves of, solemnizes, supports, allows or celebrates a same-sex union or a polygamous union or any union which, in the judgment of the church, is inconsistent with our beliefs. It is also the policy of the church that no pastor, member of the church staff, officer or church leader shall officiate at or attend any ceremony designed to solemnize, promote, create, or approve of such a union, regardless of the location of the ceremony. No member of the church may enter into such a union without being subject to church discipline.

A civil government's sanction of a marriage or union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of marriage found in the Crossroads "Statement on Marriage, Divorce, & Sexuality".

Church Policies and Practices Which Flow From Crossroads Beliefs Regarding Marriage & Sexuality

Clergy

1. Ordained clergy or licensed ministers employed by the church shall affirm the "Statement on Marriage, Divorce, & Sexuality" and the "Policies Concerning Marriage & Celebrations" adopted by this church.
2. Only ordained or licensed clergy approved by this church's Elders or Pastor shall officiate at ceremonies conducted on church property.
3. Clergy employed by the church shall be subject to dismissal for violating this "Statement on Marriage & Sexuality" or by officiating at a marriage or union ceremony that violates the letter or the spirit of this policy.

Weddings, Receptions, & Ceremonies held in Crossroads facilities:

1. Applicants wishing to have a ceremony performed by a member of the clergy not employed by Crossroads Church will not be allowed to rent or use the facilities without approval of the particular clergy by the Pastor or Elders of Crossroads Church.
2. Both visiting clergy and the couple using the church facilities for their wedding shall affirm the "Statement on Marriage & Sexuality" and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with that statement. Any officiant not employed by the Crossroads Church shall serve at the discretion of the Pastor and/or Elders.
3. The couple and clergy from the Crossroads Church membership participating in a wedding and/or reception shall affirm the "Statement on Marriage & Sexuality", before the events can be placed on the church calendar and held at the Crossroads facilities.
4. Staff assigned by the church to implement the procedures contained in this Marriage & Celebrations Policy may, in their discretion, decline to provide church facilities for, and/or decline to officiate at a ceremony when in their judgment, there are significant concerns that one or both of the applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred bond of marriage for theological, doctrinal, moral or legal reasons.
5. Applicants for a marriage ceremony held at Crossroads shall participate in premarital counseling by clergy or counselors employed by this church or other persons who, in the opinion of the Pastor and/or Elders of the church, have the appropriate training, experience, and spiritual understanding to provide such counseling. No weddings shall be officiated by a Crossroads

leader where pre-marital counseling has not been experienced by the couple. All pastoral staff, counselors, or other persons providing premarital counseling shall affirm the "Statement on Marriage, Divorce, & Sexuality".

Staff & Leadership:

1. Every minister and employee, hired by the church shall affirm their agreement with Crossroads Church "Statement on Marriage, Divorce & Sexuality" and the "Policies Concerning Marriage & Celebrations" and conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with it.
2. Church elders, deacons, officers and leaders will be asked to affirm their agreement with the "Statement On Marriage, Divorce & Sexuality" and the "Policies Concerning Marriage & Celebrations" and conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with it.
3. Church pastors, elders, deacons, leaders, and teachers are expected to teach and live in a manner that is consistent with the "Statement On Marriage, Divorce, & Sexuality" and give guidance to people that is consistent with the "Policies Concerning Marriage & Celebrations".
4. In addition, no staff member, elder, deacon, officer, or person in a leadership position of Crossroads will perform, officiate, or support by attendance any ceremony or celebration of a union or "marriage" that is outside our understanding of the meaning of a Biblical marriage. This is based, in part, on Paul's teaching in Romans. At the end of the discussion of the variety of ways people sin against God, Paul says,"Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them." (Romans 1:32 ESV) By attending a wedding or celebration of a marriage that deviates from God's design for marriage, we are giving approval and blessing to the couple for what they are doing.

Facilities Use by Outside Groups:

1. Crossroads Church will occasionally make our facilities available for use by groups outside of our church. In all cases, the group's purposes and the event itself must not be in direct conflict with Crossroads Church's mission, beliefs, or practices.
2. Crossroads Church reserves the right to deny use of its facilities to any individual or group whose beliefs, purposes, and practices are in conflict with our own beliefs, purposes, and practices.

This Statement and Policies was approved and adopted for the membership of Crossroads Church, by the Elders of Crossroads on September 16, 2015. It was presented to the church membership on Sunday, October 4, 2015.