

Prairie View Christian Church By-Law Addendum

In the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision in the case of *Obergefell vs. Hodges* on June 26, 2015, the fundamental right to marry was guaranteed to same-sex couples. As a result of this decision, and other significant societal confusion concerning the definition and meaning of marriage, the Elders of Prairie View Christian Church propose the following statement of marriage, in light of our interpretation of the Bible and historical Christian teaching.

The Elders of Prairie View Christian Church believe "marriage" is defined by God alone, as delineated in the Bible. This limits our understanding of marriage to consist of one biological male and one biological female. This is a monogamous, sacrificial, and life-long covenant, entered into humbly and reverently.

We believe marriage is the only context in which sexual intimacy that honors God as King, obeys His Word, and affirms His good created order can occur. Thus, we believe any sexual expression that occurs outside of the bounds of marriage is sinful.

This does not negate Prairie View Christian Church's core value that "all people are valuable in God's eyes". PVCC rejects the notion that those guilty of any sexual sin are to be harassed or mistreated in any manner. This is inappropriate in all circumstances, and fails to model the neighbor-love Jesus modeled. We believe Jesus commands all people be shown compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. However, PVCC cannot affirm or condone all worldviews, beliefs, and actions.

Thus, in order to preserve the public witness and doctrinal integrity of Prairie View Christian Church as a local church in the larger Body of Christ, the Elders insist that all persons employed by PVCC abide by this understanding of marriage. Consequently, the Elders and Ministers of PVCC will not officiate a wedding ceremony which fails to meet this basic criteria of marriage, nor shall PVCC property or resources be used in such a marriage event.

We believe God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking his mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.