

Statement on Sexuality

This statement was endorsed at the AGM of the Reforming Alliance National Conference: 13-14 July 2005, and forwarded to the councils of the Uniting Church for agreement and presentation as a proposal to the 11th Assembly of the Uniting Church. The Joint Summit of EMU and RA held on 12 July 2006 adopted this statement as the proposed statement on sexuality for The Assembly of Confessing Congregations, and the inaugural meeting of the Assembly of Confessing Congregations within the Uniting Church in Australia held 13 – 14 October 2006, adopted this statement as a founding document of the Assembly.

That the Assembly reaffirm the sexual teaching and practice of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, as attested in Scripture, by adopting the following confessional statement:

- a. We believe that God created us as male and female to live in freedom and unity with each other by being faithful to our male or female gender. (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:18-24)
- b. We believe that sexual intercourse should be expressed solely within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, which God ordained and which is confirmed by Christ and honoured by its unique likeness to Christ's relationship to the Church. (Gen 2:24; Mat 19:4-7; Mk 10:6-8; Eph.5:25-33)
- c. We believe that people who engage in homosexual practice are acting contrary to the clear witness of Scripture to our creation by God as male and female (Lev. 18:22; Lev. 20:13(a); Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-20; 1 Tim. 1:8-11)
- d. We believe that people who engage in homosexual practice harm the eucharistic fellowship of the Church as the Body of Christ (1 Cor 5-6)
- e. We believe that the Church's solidarity with the world in sin (Rom 3:23) and gratitude for the reconciliation of the world in Christ (2 Cor 5:16-21) commits her:
 - i. To speak Christ's word of mercy and friendship to any person who is tempted by homosexual practice (John 8:1-11), and to offer them counselling and pastoral care when they experience temptation, hostility, illness or bereavement (Galatians 6:1-6)
 - ii. To invite people practising homosexuality to experience Christ's freedom by abandoning behaviour which is contrary to the clear witness of Scripture (Galatians 5:16-25)
- f. We believe that the Church should not normalise homosexual practices within the Church by:
 - i. Ordaining, commissioning or inducting into the ministries of the Church those practising homosexuality.
 - ii. Solemnising or blessing homosexual unions.