

Koinonia Fellowship Peak Hill

Within the Uniting Church in Australia

Euchie Street, Peak Hill 2869

24th April 2018

Uniting Church in Australia

PO Box A2266

Sydney South, NSW 1235

Attention: General Secretary

Open Letter to the 15th Assembly 2018

Dear Delegates,

The Elders, Church Council and members of Koinonia Fellowship, Peak Hill, NSW, wish to affirm the strong Biblical policy of the definition of Christian marriage in the Uniting Church.

We believe that the definition of Christian marriage is the union of a man and a woman under the covenant of marriage ordained by God.

We also believe that the Scriptures are clear on proper relationships within the body of Christ, the church. In regard to ethical conduct, there is no place for sexual expression between members except within the bond of marriage. The Church Universal believes that any deviation from this position is against our Creator God's law. Presently the Uniting Church reflects that view in its current policy, despite individual members quoting otherwise in contravention of the discipline of the Uniting Church.

As a member body of the Uniting Church, we have suffered in the past twenty years from the stigma of the perceptions of other denominations and the community, that the Uniting Church in Australia is pro- same sex marriage and same sex couples.

If Assembly 2018 cannot clearly state that the current policy is to be upheld we believe it will be the biggest drain on the Uniting Church, the biggest split in the body, and sound the demise of this denomination.

Twenty years ago we wrote to Assembly and stated that we believed an assembly which could not make up its mind on such a fundamental truth was not in a position to give Biblical leadership.

The position stated in the UC policy remains, yet there has been no strong statements forthcoming from our leadership. The recent postal vote by the Commonwealth Government was an ideal time to stand strongly with our other Christian brothers and sisters to defend God's definition of marriage. Yet the vocal minority within the UC won the day and intimidated the majority.

It is critical that the Assembly endorses the legitimate Christian definition of marriage between a man and a woman as its policy. If there is any other outcome, then it is essential that the Presbyteries and the congregations of the Uniting Church be given the opportunity to decide.

It is imperative that Assembly maintains that Christian marriage remains the union of a man and a woman, under the covenant of marriage ordained by God.

Our prayers and blessings on this Assembly,

Geoffrey Steventon M.B.E, R.F.D

Lay Ministry Assistant

Koinonia Fellowship, Peak Hill NSW

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