

The Marriage Debate

On Friday the 13th Of July, 2018, The National Assembly of the Uniting Church of Australia, choose to endorse two definitions of Marriage, one the Traditional view and a second allowing 2 persons of the same gender, to be Married under the Rites of the Church.

This violates the clear teachings of Scripture, the Apostolic Traditions of Christianity and places our Church outside of the consensus of Christian Churches. In breaking all three of these important standards, the Uniting Church of Australia is now considered by many, to be apostate. This is a most serious situation.

It is also significant, that in reaching this decision, Assembly has acted independently of the wider Church body. Our Constitutional Documents, in particular, the Basis of Union, demand this, as noted in Proposal 27, which was placed before Assembly seeking the inclusion of the whole Church in the Decision. The following quote is from P27.

The Assembly is obligated, in accordance with paragraph 15(e) of the *Basis of Union*, to seek the concurrence of other councils of the church on matters which are “of vital importance to the life of the Church”. The wording could not be stronger. It’s not optional.

Paragraph 15(e) of the Basis of Union states:

*“(e) **The Assembly** ... It is obligatory for it to seek the concurrence of other councils, and on occasion of the Congregations of the Church, on matters of vital importance to the life of the Church.”*

The Way Forward.

At present, we are waiting for feedback and direction from the Queensland Synod and the Assembly of Confessing Congregations, of which we are a member, and who on our behalf, have spoken against the change. It is important to give the leadership of this group, time to reflect on the week that has been and to fine tune the strategies, they intend to implement and we need to support.

It is important that the Church Council and Minister, continue to keep the Congregation informed. Further we would envisage, one or more Congregational meetings, where the Church as a whole has opportunity, to reflect upon and speak to this matter.

Mr. Paul Francis,
Dr. Doug Smith
Rev. Peter Lyne

A Statement from Deception Bay Uniting Church, Queensland, provided to their Congregation on Sunday 14 July 2018.