



A. MARRIAGE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

New Westminster Christian Reformed Church (New West CRC) holds the Bible to be the “only infallible rule of faith and life.” We are therefore guided in the decisions of our lives (both individually and as a community) by God’s Word. We find that the Creeds and Confessions of the Christian Reformed Church of North America (CRCNA), of which we are a member, help us understand and interpret the Bible. We affirm our adherence to them in the Bylaws of New West CRC.

We find in the Bible a consistent view of marriage and human sexuality. This view can be summarized in the following short sections on Marriage and Human Sexuality:

1. Marriage

The position of the CRCNA and of New West CRC is that:

“Marriage is an institution created by God. It is a covenant relationship established by mutual vows between a man and a woman united by God. Permanent unity in marriage is possible in Christ and is demanded of Christ’s disciples who are married.”

<https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/position-statements/marriage>

A civil government’s sanction of a marriage will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by New West CRC only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of “marriage” found in this statement.

2. Human Sexuality, Specifically Same-Sex Attraction

The position of the CRCNA and of New West CRC is that:

Same-sex attraction is a condition of disordered sexuality that reflects the brokenness of our sinful world. Persons experiencing same-sex attraction should not be denied community acceptance solely because of their sexual orientation and should be wholeheartedly received by the church and given loving support and encouragement. Christians with same-sex attraction, like all Christians, are called to discipleship, holy obedience, and the use of their gifts in the cause of the kingdom. Opportunities to serve within the offices and the life of the congregation should be afforded to them as to heterosexual Christians.

Sexual activity between persons of the same gender is incompatible with obedience to the will of God as revealed in Scripture. The church affirms that it must exercise the same compassion for same-sex attracted persons in their sins as it exercises for all other sinful behaviours. The church should do everything in its power to love and embrace persons with same-sex attraction to support them toward faithfulness

before God. *[Adapted from <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/position-statements/homosexuality>]*

B. MARRIAGE CEREMONIES and USE OF NEW WEST CRC FACILITIES:

Based on our understanding of marriage and human sexuality as outlined above, our policy for marriage ceremonies and the use of New West CRC facilities is as follows:

1. New West CRC understands marriage to be both a social and religious institution. A wedding is a solemnization and celebration of a marriage. All weddings at the facility of New West CRC will be officiated by an ordained clergy to solemnize the marriage of a man and a woman.
2. For couples who are professing Christians within the CRCNA, in accordance with Christian Reformed Church Order (Article 69)
 - a. Consistories shall instruct and admonish those under their spiritual care to marry only in the Lord.
 - b. Christian marriages should be solemnized with appropriate admonitions, promises, and prayers, as provided for in the official form. Marriages may be solemnized either in a worship service or in private gatherings of relatives and friends.
 - c. Ministers shall not solemnize marriages which would be in conflict with the Word of God.
3. Applicants wishing to have a ceremony performed by a clergy employed by New West CRC must:
 - a. Visit with the pastor in order to inquire whether he/she is able to officiate at a future wedding.
 - b. Receive approval by the Pastoral Elders of New West CRC.
 - c. As early as possible, set a mutually agreeable date for the wedding ceremony.
 - d. Participate in premarital conversation with the pastor before the wedding date.
 - e. Meet with the pastor to plan the wedding ceremony and rehearsal.
4. The New West CRC facility will only be used for weddings of biologically heterosexual couples.
5. The couple will be responsible for use-of-facility fees according to the “Fee Schedule” of New West CRC.