

HopeNET



Response to Marriage Consultation : Driver River UCA

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MINISTRY TEAM MEETING – MONDAY 25TH AUGUST 2014

Response to Marriage Paper

1. Identify any challenges or new insights raised for members of the group by the commentary on the theological dimensions of marriage service:

Our Belief/view is that Marriage is between one man and one woman for life for the procreation of children according to the scriptures. "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female'. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together let man not separate." Mark 10:6-9

2. If the government were to legislate to enable same-gender couples to marry, what issues or questions would this raise for you:

It is the Churches responsibility to take a Biblical Stand according to scripture against any legislation that is contrary to God's Law. The Driver River Congregation will not be a part of a church supporting this Government Legislation.

3. What would you see as appropriate response by the Uniting Church?

Pastorally for its members and the wider community?

- The teaching of Biblical Truths from Scripture
- Support congregations with Biblical Beliefs

- Support and maintain stable marriage between a man and a woman

In the churches Practices Concerning Marriage:

- Affirm the UCA's current position on marriage and the related Biblical doctrine

In relation to the government and the church's role in conducting marriages:

- The church is under the authority of Christ and His Word, not under the authority of the State
- The church's position should not be influenced even if the state tries to force ministers and pastors to confirm to Anti-Biblical legislation

In any celebration or blessing of same gender relationships:

- Why should the church even consider going against God's Biblical truths concerning same gender relationships.

4. Should the Uniting Church reconsider it's understanding of marriage at this time? Why or Why Not.

No! "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable" Leviticus 18:22
Clearly states that this is wrong.

5. What other issues are important to you in relation to these matters"

The moral downfall of society in both Christian and non-christian communities would be irreversible and undermine the very values of our country's foundations.

The impact on the next generation and the generations to follow. "But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea" Matthew 18:6

6. Are there particular questions or insights into these issues that you want to share from your ethno-cultural community?

God is the same Today, Yesterday and Tomorrow. The church should remember this. It is not up to God to change and adapt to our culture. Our culture and community need to adhere to God's Laws and commands.

Matthew 18:6-9

“But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.”

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