

ORIGINATED BY THE PHILIPPINE GENERAL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 22, 2022
WITNESSED BY BISHOP ALAN BACUS AND BISHOP MATT WHITEHEAD

RESOLUTION #1

“The Insertion of Paragraphs 114-Marriage and 115-Sexuality in the Articles of Religion of the BOD of the FMC.”

A Resolution to insert into the Articles of Religion as paragraphs 114- Marriage and 115-Sexuality and that the articles following be renumbered appropriately.

Whereas we affirm,

The Bible is God’s written Word, uniquely inspired by the Holy Spirit. It bears unerring witness to Jesus Christ, the living Word. The Bible has authority over all human life. It teaches the truth about God, His creation, His people, His one and only Son and the destiny of humankind. (Articles of Religion, ¶108)

Whereas we also affirm,

In our Wesleyan heritage of engaging with Scripture through the lenses of tradition, reason, and experience, we keep Scripture primary. While the church will always be tasked with authentically communicating and applying biblical truths with sensitivity to cultural dynamics, we do not subjugate the Bible’s timeless truths to cultural norms or social trends. We fully align our lives and our movement on the unshakeable foundation of God’s Word. (Free Methodist Way)

And whereas we also believe the Old Testament and New Testament assert the creation of only two genders and marriage is understood as the union of husband and wife, (Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:31-33)

And whereas we also believe the Old Testament and New Testament are clear that sexual intimacy outside of marriage of husband and wife are contrary to the created order, against the law of God, and a result of sinful inclinations, (Exodus 20:14, 17; Leviticus 20:13; Matthew 5:27-30; Matthew 18:8-9; Acts 15:20; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 18-20; 1 Corinthians 7:1-2; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4; Jude 7)

And whereas 21st century cultures are expressing truth in self-identity rather than *imago dei*,

And whereas many have expressed views contrary to our understanding of the clear teaching of the scriptures in regards to marriage and human sexuality,

And whereas these views we believe to be contrary to orthodoxy have now escalated to a point of general acceptance in the broader culture,

And whereas biblical truths about marriage and human sexuality need to be affirmed across the cultures of the Free Methodist Church to guard both ourselves and our worldwide Free Methodist community from theological drift,

And whereas we need to address specific teaching running contrary to our understanding of scripture from a clear doctrinal stance,

And whereas it seems appropriate for there to be additions to our Articles of Religion to address the aforementioned concerns,

Therefore be it resolved that the following paragraphs¹ be inserted into the Articles of Religion as paragraphs 114 and 115 and that the articles following be renumbered appropriately:

¶114 Marriage

God has designed marriage to be a covenantal, sexual, procreative, lifelong union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife, and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and His bride the church. Sexual relationships outside of the covenant of marriage are contrary to God's design.

¶115 Human Sexuality

God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in His own image, equal before God as persons, and distinct as male and female. Differences between male and female reflect God's original creation design and are meant for human good and flourishing.

¹ Adapted from the Nashville Statement, 2017