

Official Policy of the British Columbia Association Concerning Marriage

As the Supreme Court of Canada has clearly stated in their reference re: Same Sex marriage (neutral citation: 2004 SCC 79.) that the Charter protects “religious officials from being compelled by the state to perform civil or religious same-sex marriages that are contrary to their religious beliefs,” thus we, the British Columbia Association, state our following position on marriage:

Whereas, in accordance to the North American Baptist Conference Statement of Beliefs, we affirm that each person is unique, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect, and

Whereas, we also affirm that we are called to introduce each person to the loving, reconciling ministry of Jesus Christ and the life changing transformation described in scripture, and

Whereas, we believe that the Bible teaches that marriage is between one man and one woman only, to recognize other unions as legitimate marriages would be contrary to our understanding of scripture within the British Columbia Association and the North American Baptist Conference, and

Whereas, though as Christians we seek to demonstrate God’s love to all people, we will not compromise our convictions on marriage as defined by scripture.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. As a matter of belief, doctrine and religious practice, the British Columbia Association reserves the term “marriage” for the covenant relationship between one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others.
2. And that the British Columbia Association establishes the standard that all individuals, who are licensed to perform marriages through the British Columbia Association, not officiate at, or co-officiate at, a ceremony to celebrate any union not conforming to the previously stated definition of marriage.
3. And we recommend that all churches in the British Columbia Association adopt the above as a policy of the individual, local church. We recommend that churches also review their “church use policies” to reflect the resolution as stated.
4. And that in the event that individuals licensed to perform marriages through the British Columbia Association officiate at, or co-officiate at, any ceremony to celebrate a union that is outside of the previously stated definition of marriage, will be subject to mandatory withdrawal of the British Columbia Association’s sponsorship of their license and it is recommended that they be subject to disciplinary review by their local church.
5. And that the facilities of the British Columbia Association will not be used for weddings or receptions where the union does not conform to the previously stated definition of marriage or the provisions of this resolution.