

February 2022

A Statement from the Board of Elders at Emmanuel Baptist Church

At Emmanuel we have made listening, learning, and engaging in conversation a priority for our community as we prepare to participate in a denominationally led vote this May. One element of this vote relates to the definition of marriage. As such our pastors, as well as 4 guest speakers, have presented us with 5 or more different views on their theological interpretation and understanding of marriage and sexuality, and in several cases graciously provided an important LGBTQ+ voice to the conversation.

As Christians, the challenge and emotional weight we feel as we wrestle through a season of disagreement is difficult and heavy. Regardless of where our theological convictions lie, these conversations are hard; they can create tension, frustration and in some cases even hurt among our community. Yet, it is important that we remember that our discomfort is not comparable to the potential harm and even trauma these conversations can cause to members of the LGBTQ+ community.

As a board we felt led to make a statement in recognition of the potential harm our community conversation process may have caused to members of the LGBTQ+ community. We acknowledge that parts of the process, particularly where the impact to their community was not considered, may have caused them to question their belonging here, or diminished their ability to flourish within our community. As a board we do not support a narrative that does not recognize the LGBTQ+ community as part of the conversation.

It is our prayer that the voices and experiences of, and impact on, the LGBTQ+ community are front of mind in all we do and say throughout our preparations for Assembly 2022 and beyond. We thank the community at Emmanuel Baptist Church who have committed themselves to gracious conversation with one another, created space for difference in opinion on the interpretation of scripture, and are prayerfully considering a way forward for our community.

In Christ,
Board of Elders

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Saskatoon SK