

Official Policy of the Alberta Baptist Association Concerning Marriage

Adopted April 13, 2005

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 Alberta Baptist 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 Alberta Baptist 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 Alberta Baptist 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 Alberta Baptist Association establishes the standard that all individuals, who are licensed to perform marriages through the Alberta Baptist 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 Alberta Baptist 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 Alberta Baptist 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 Alberta Baptist 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 Alberta Baptist Association will not be used for wedding or receptions where the union does not conform to the previously stated definition of marriage or the provisions of this resolution.

I have read and agree to comply with and not act in any way contrary to the Alberta Baptist Association policy regarding marriage.

Signature

Date

Please print the following information:

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

E-mail: _____

Current Ministry: _____

Please sign and date above, as well as fill in the information that is requested. Then fax it to the Alberta Baptist Association at (780) 434-9170. This will allow us to begin to process your temporary license. Then send us the original signed document at:

Alberta Baptist Association
11525 23 Ave
Edmonton, AB T6J 4T3

For ABA Office Use Only

Temporary License Number: _____

Issue Date: _____

Expiry Date: _____

Date Sent: _____

Note: