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Audience	College Community, General Public
Stakeholders	Eldership of Portlife Church

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Introduction

Overview

This policy outlines the position statement of Portlife Church with regard to a Biblical understanding of marriage and the family. Position statements authorised by the Eldership of Portlife Church form part of the values and beliefs for Portside Christian College.

Purpose

The premise for a biblical understanding of marriage and the family is the authority of scripture. This position statement affirms the deity of Christ and trustworthiness of the Bible as the infallible Word of God.

The statement has been approved by the Eldership of Portlife Church. It is therefore a requirement of employment at Portside Christian College that all employees live consistently with and support our position on marriage and the family.

Statement

Marriage and sexuality

- Marriage was instituted by God to be a lifetime union between a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others. It is a union that is legitimized and characterized by Ceremony (the exchanging of vows), Common Law and Consummation. (Genesis 2:18; Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; I Corinthians 7:39).
- In the Old Testament the word 'covenant' is used (Malachi 2:14; Proverbs 2:17) and this term signifies the serious nature of this 'unbreakable' contract. (Psalm 89:34; Daniel 9:4; Numbers 30:2) See also Ecclesiastes 5:4-6; Psalm 15:4.
- This covenant has also been described as a leaving, cleaving and becoming a 'one flesh' relationship. This concept completes man. He needs a mate – God supplies so as to create fellowship, oneness and wholeness where love is born and children are produced and nurtured. (Genesis 2:18-25).

Family

- The Bible speaks of the importance of family for the nurture of children and for the maturing of the marriage relationship. (Eph 6:1-4)
- God's plan for a husband and wife is to a lifetime of commitment to one another, which provides the best environment for the family. (Gen 2:18, 24)
- Children are a gift from God. (Genesis 33: 5).
- God's plan is that parents love, provide for, model life and train their children in the ways of God. (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21; Titus 2:4; Proverbs 23:26; Luke 2:52).
- God's plan further instructs children (offspring) to honour their parents. (Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 23:26; Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20).

In Australian society family structures are varied. The following are consistent with the biblical view of family:

- A nucleus family, commonly defined as the primary social unit, comprised of a man and wife and their offspring.
- A husband and wife with no offspring.
- A one parent family, where either husband or wife alone is raising the offspring.
- A step family, where either the husband or the wife is the natural parent of the child
- A blended family, in which a man and woman, each of whom may have offspring from a previous relationship, marry and may have offspring from that union.
- A foster family, in which a child is reared by a husband and wife, or one parent other than his/her natural parents.
- An adoptive family where, through a legal process, a child becomes a legitimate son or daughter of a husband and/or wife other than his/her natural parents.
- The extended family where a grandparent or other relative has custodial responsibility for the care and nurture of the children.

The above 'units' embrace the notion of family from a biblical perspective. There may be other 'units' that fit into this category which the College may recognise from time to time.

Any relationships outside of this are considered sexual immorality by the Bible.

Summary

For the well-being of parents and students, the College's enrolment policy will endeavour to ensure that there is consistency between the teachings of the College and values upheld in the home. Hence the College will not support an application for enrolment from parents who will not support the College's values and beliefs.

Related documents

Recruitment policy

Policy dissemination and training

Who	Method	Frequency	Details
General public	Website		Whenever changed

Distribution

Information from this policy should be included in the following documents:

Newsletter

Staff Memo

Handbooks

College

Staff

ELC

OSHC

Change history

Review Date	Amendments
Not known	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy first approved
April 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amendments not known
June 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amended by Josh Poyzer and approved by the Eldership