BROADMEAD
Community Church

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Marriage and Sexuality

As a Leadership Team, we believe that the Bible is the Word of God. Our desire is to interpret Scripture as faithfully, thoughtfully, and passionately as we can. It is our *interpretation* that God's design for marriage is a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman, committed exclusively to one another.

From the opening chapters of Genesis, where Scripture begins with a marriage in the Garden of Eden, to its closing vision of Christ and His Bride, the Church, marriage is woven throughout the biblical narrative. This covenant relationship provides the framework within which God intends sexual intimacy to be expressed. Therefore, we believe that any sexual activity outside of this covenant falls short *and misses the mark* of God's intention. This includes sexual activity between people of the opposite sex or the same sex, as well as adultery, promiscuity, pornography, and even lust within the heart.

This represents the position of the leadership of Broadmead Community Church. For these reasons, we will not conduct same-sex marriages.

At the same time, we wish to make the following clear:

- We acknowledge that every one of us falls short of God's glory. Before criticising others, we must first humbly examine our own hearts and lives.
- We are deeply sorry for the ways the wider Church has, at times, scapegoated, harmed, or even persecuted people, including those who experience same-sex attraction. We repent of language, attitudes, and behaviours that have contributed to this hurt.
- All people experience temptation in various forms throughout their lives. Jesus Himself was tempted. The experience of temptation is not, in itself, sinful, and same-sex attraction is not a sin.
- While we do not choose the temptations we face, we are responsible for how we respond to them.
- We believe the church should be a welcoming community for all, regardless of the temptations or struggles they experience. Together, we seek to pursue holiness and to be a community marked by love—the love we see in Jesus: unconditional, sacrificial, selfless, transformative, and offered to all.