



Chapel Place Presbyterian Church

8 Chapel Place, Markham, Ontario L3R 9C4

Arabic: www.cppc.ca, English: www.chapelplace.ca

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Nagi Said

Associate Minister: Rev. Freddie Saleh Hanna

Clerk of Session: W. George Habib

Jan. 15, 2019

Report on Session's Discussion Re. General Assembly document "On the Question of Unity and Diversity":

As a session, representing also the congregation of CPPC, we affirm the unity of love, and mutual respect to one another within the universal church. Further, we assert we are unified in purpose to glorify God, and to advance the cause of Christ and further His Kingdom in the world.

However, we also recognize that unity within the denomination should be firmly founded on unity of beliefs and truth. While we respectfully endorse allowing room for variances on the non essentials, there remains the necessity to sustain unity of faith and of practice in essentials that should be based on common understanding and conviction of truth, as found in scripture. Adhering to a congregation's adopted truth, values, and practices cannot be compromised for the sake of unity, but should this eventually lead to separation, it should still be conducted with mutual respect and Christian love.

Concerning the issue of human sexuality, we affirm the equal value and rights to love, respect and dignity for homosexuals. We welcome them in our midst with full love and acceptance. We oppose the form of hatred known as homophobia as vigorously as any other (A&P 1985, p. 238-241, 31). We do not tolerate any acts of denigration towards gay and lesbian people (A&P 2003, p. 526-547, 26, 34, 37-41, 43-45). But we can't approve or condone homosexual practice just as we can't condone adultery, fornication, robbery, theft, or murder. Homosexuals and heterosexuals are brothers and sisters in humanity. We all groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. We need to support each other as we face the pain and challenges of human brokenness, sin and evil in us and in the world. In reliance on God's grace and Spirit, we are called to fight the good fight against every evil desire in us or wrong habit or doing. We are called to a life of discipleship that pursues holiness and transformation to the likeness of Christ.

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We will continue to uphold the Biblical perspective of marriage as a covenant between man and woman. There should not be any other place for sexual relationship outside this covenant bond. We stand by the "Westminster Confession of Faith", and the "Living Faith" which is the latest subordinate standard for the Presbyterian Church in Canada that defines marriage as a union in Christ between man and woman. We here stand by the statement of the General Assembly that Scripture treats homosexual practice as a departure from God's created order (A&P 1994, p. 251-274, 56). This was the faith and practice of the PCC that matched our conviction when we joined in 1982, and which will continue to endorse as we believe it is God's ordained order for marriage and family. We are not prepared to ordain self-avowed, practicing homosexuals nor to allow public worship services blessing same-sex relationships (A&P 1995, p. 436, 26, 71). We are committed to stay true to our faith in God as revealed in Jesus Christ, obedient to the authority of Scripture, and to our calling to be God's servants and witnesses whether within the Presbyterian Church in Canada or without.

Finally, it should be noted that within our local congregation we remain firmly united to this stand: ministers, elders, and congregation. Any change in this matter will certainly lead to disrupting the unity and stability of the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Freddie Saleh,
Associate Minister

W. George Habib
Clerk of Session

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cc. Rev. Dr. Jeff Loach, Clerk of Presbytery of Oak Ridges
Rev. Dr. Nagi Said, Senior Minister, CPPC