

# Appendix C - SSCC Statement of Faith

*July 25, 2015*

## Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and permanently creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Gender and sex are joined by God in creation (Gen 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. Many different personality traits exist in great diversity between men and women, and many are interchangeable, but the original design of God for those genders with their sex remain, and these display the wisdom and harmony of God for humanity.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Co 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, the use of pornography and related behaviors) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Co 6:9-10. Gal. 5:19-20)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of SouthSide Community Church and all SouthSide Ministries, as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the SouthSide Community Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by SouthSide Community Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Th 5:22.)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Co 6:9-11.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be rejected and are not in accordance with Scripture nor the doctrines of SouthSide Community Church.

# **Scripture References Pertinent to the SSM Statement on Marriage, Gender and Sexuality**

Genesis 1:26–27

Genesis 2:18–25

1 Corinthians 6:18

1 Corinthians 7:2–5

Hebrews 13:4

Matthew 15:18–20

1 Corinthians 6:9–10

Matthew 5:16

Philippians 2:14–16

1 Thessalonians 5:22

Acts 3:19–21

Romans 10:9–10

1 Corinthians 6:9–11

Mark 12:28–31

Luke 6:31