

Referred to Theology

Presbytery of the Alleghenies
Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church



May 2, 2017

Rev. Dr. Jeffery Jeremiah, Stated Clerk
Evangelical Presbyterian Church
Office of the General Assembly
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd., Ste. 510
Orlando, FL 32822

RE: 36th General Assembly – POA Overtures – Human Sexuality

Dear Jeff:

Below are two (2) overtures from the Presbytery of the Alleghenies regarding the preliminary position paper “Human Sexuality”. These overtures were approved to be submitted at our 23rd Stated Meeting on April 28th and 29th at Bay Presbyterian Church.

Please advise of any questions or comments or if this correspondence should be sent to others as well.

Your brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bruce D. Allison'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bruce D. Allison
Stated Clerk
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**Overture to GA from the POA regarding
the preliminary position paper “Human Sexuality”**

1. **Revise the proposed position paper entitled “Human Sexuality as follows:**

Add the following sentence to the end of the second paragraph under the section entitled “A Call to Holiness”:

Those moral standards require fidelity in the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman or chastity in singleness.

The revised section would then read:

A Call to Holiness

We believe God has called us to live holy lives.¹⁶ The Christian believer’s body is a temple of God’s Spirit; therefore, rather than stealing sexual privileges from one another outside of marriage, we are called to edify one another in multiple ways that we may all become more like Christ. Those who are married must avoid every temptation that would diminish the loving faithfulness they vowed in their marriage covenant. Those who are unmarried, regardless of sexual attraction, must seek to honor God through diligently avoiding temptation, restraining ungodly sexual impulses, focusing their energies on serving Christ and neighbor, and eagerly anticipating the new heavens and the new earth, when all things will be restored and every godly human longing beautifully fulfilled. Those who find themselves desiring to be a person of the opposite gender face painful emotions and weighty consequences. With heartfelt sympathy and a deep desire to love and encourage them in their circumstances, we believe they must find their contentment in Christ alone, accepting His wise and gracious providence, and looking to Him for strength to glorify Him and to serve his or her neighbor through the gender given at conception.

*It is encouraging to remember that our Lord Jesus suffered every human temptation without sinning and that God always provides His people a way of escape from every sin. Unrepentant sinful behavior is incompatible with the confession of Jesus as Lord required of all members of the EPC. Additionally, it is required of ordained officers in the EPC that they believe, practice, and teach the moral standards contained in the Scriptures and Constitution of the EPC and reflected in this position paper. **Those moral standards require fidelity in the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman or chastity in singleness.***

Reasoning: This last paragraph addresses church leadership specifically. We feel it is very important to be clear on what is expected of our leaders regarding issues of sexuality and see it worthy to reiterate here.

2. **Maintain the position paper entitled “The Sanctity of Marriage”, but appoint an Ad Interim Committee to review and revise as necessary to eliminate any duplicate issues addressed in the proposed position paper entitled “Human Sexuality”.**

Reasoning: The Christian marriage cannot be totally defined as part of Human Sexuality, as the covenants of marriage are broader than issues of sexuality. These broader issues and covenants are addressed well in the position paper entitled “The Sanctity of Marriage”, but not in the proposed position paper entitled “Human Sexuality”.