



The Meeting House & Same Sex Marriage

April 2019

A current issue of concern and, unfortunately, division within the church today is the question of same sex marriage. **The Meeting House holds to a traditional view of marriage as designed by God to unite a man and a woman in a covenant union of love.**

This also means that we would not affirm someone in leadership who is actively living contrary to our beliefs (e.g., in a same sex marriage or dating relationship), which is similar to how we approach other issues. For instance, as a historic peace church, we would not affirm a police officer or member of the military in a church leadership position either. Church leadership requires, among other things, that a person represent the views of the church they are leading with integrity and conviction, which would be difficult if living contrary to those beliefs.

Having said that, we also know that there are many good and godly Christians who hold to a progressive understanding of marriage, believing in and supporting same sex marriage as a gift from God. While we may disagree with these brothers and sisters, we also believe it is our calling to create a church that welcomes Jesus-followers from both points of view to fellowship together.

Often it is the case that conservative and liberal, traditional and progressive churches will rally around their theological point of view on topics like this while marginalizing or even villainizing the other point of view. Conservatives may only see liberals as sinners who need to repent. And progressives may only see traditionalists as unloving legalists who do not care about social justice. Our hope is to plot a “third way” forward, where we can all hold our convictions with honesty and the humility to continue to learn from those with whom we disagree. Our experience is that this “third way” approach can be messy and frustrating, as well as beautiful and deeply loving. For us, this is the best version of being the diverse family of God that Jesus has called us to be.

If this sounds like a community you could belong to, regardless of where you stand on the issue of same sex marriage, we invite you to come and join us. God has made us one big beautiful family, and we have a lot to learn from one another.

Peace,

Bruxy