

A statement from DaySpring on same-sex weddings
May 1, 2016

From its founding, DaySpring Baptist Church has been united by an experience of renewal in Christian worship and a commitment to share the love of Christ with one another and the world. This unifying framework has made DaySpring the church home of Christ-followers with varied backgrounds and convictions. DaySpring has thrived by accepting these differences and has never before sought to collectively resolve issues that divide faithful Christian communities across the world. The legalization of same-sex marriage in the United States has prompted our church to take an unusual course of action by making this statement about a contested issue in the life of our community. Although we hold diverse beliefs about same-sex marriage and value open dialogue among us, we also need clarity on our wedding practices. This statement, which represents the outcome of several months of prayerful deliberation, emotional toil, and relational strain, is meant to clarify DaySpring's current wedding practice while honoring our differences and our ongoing commitment to one another.

Recognizing that we do not have congregational consensus to change a practice this important to the life of the church, we continue to perform weddings between a man and a woman, and do not practice same-sex weddings. This practice is grounded in the longstanding interpretation of the authoritative biblical witness concerning same-sex physical intimacy and the historic teaching of the Church on sexual ethics. It is also consistent with the policies of our primary denominational partners (Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Baptist General Convention of Texas) and DaySpring's own history; we have not hosted nor have our ministers officiated a same-sex ceremony.

Even as we embrace the traditional Christian practice of marriage, we also embrace those in our fellowship who are inspired by the committed relationships of gay friends and family and who desire to see DaySpring affirm same-sex marriages.

We are humbled by our awareness that Christians have not always fulfilled Christ's call to love and have often driven away our gay brothers and sisters. And we profess together, across the spectrum of beliefs about same-sex marriage, that we are united in our desire to be faithful to God and gracious to all God's children.

We commit ourselves to renewal in Christian love for one another and our neighbors, believing that God can heal dissension among us and use our various gifts and experiences to bless one another and the world. Trusting the spirit of our congregational life — *sacred* and *simple* — we each bring our gifts to a table set for all: listening and reasoning in love as brothers and sisters, confessing with humility the limitations of our knowledge and understanding, and choosing to hold the tension of our differences so that the fullness of truth may be known and lived out together. As we do so, we remember that we are called and empowered to test our theological convictions by the study of scripture, in the context of the Church's history and tradition, and with the guidance of the Spirit as discerned by the gathered congregation.

We pray God's help in our ongoing witness to the Gospel as the loving, compassionate church community we have known DaySpring to be and to which we are committed in our life together.