

## STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, DIVORCE, AND REMARRIAGE

At Midway Presbyterian Church the Session believes that Scripture is the inerrant, infallible Word of God and is to be applied in all matters of life. Scripture is quite clear about the importance and sanctity of marriage. Scripture establishes the following principles that govern marriage, divorce, and remarriage.

1. Marriage is a divine institution, being a covenant among a man, a woman, and God. (Genesis 2:18-22; Malachi 2:14 ; Matthew 19:4-6)
2. Christians must enter into and conduct their marriages according to the rules for marriage set down in Scripture. (Romans 7:2-3)
3. Marriage is intended by God to be permanent (Malachi 2:16; Matthew 19:6).
4. When one of the partners dies the remaining partner may remarry (Romans 7:2).
5. The only possible biblical ground for dissolving a marriage of two Christians is the “exception clause” of Matthew 5:32 and 19:9.
6. In no case does Scripture permit divorce (and remarriage) between Christians on any grounds other than adultery, which is a physical act of sex with another, according to Scripture. (Matthew 5:32 and 19:9)
7. In the case of one Christian partner leaving the other Christian partner for any cause other than adultery, he or she is to remain unmarried or else be reconciled to the abandoned partner (1 Corinthians 7:10, 11).
8. If a Christian is married to an unbeliever and the unbeliever is willing to continue living with the Christian, the Christian is not to seek a separation or divorce (1 Corinthians 7:12-14).
9. If a Christian is married to an unbeliever and the unbeliever chooses to leave the Christian, the Christian is free to permit the separation and/or resulting divorce (1 Corinthians 7:15).

## Part 2--Practical

1. Christian marriages, the only kind that are to be performed at Midway Presbyterian Church, are by definition to be between two professing Christians only.
2. If a Christian has been married and divorced before becoming a Christian, this past history is not to be considered a barrier to a second marriage to a Christian.
3. If a Christian has been married as a Christian and then divorced, this past history is not in itself to be considered a barrier to him or her becoming a member of the church in good standing.
4. If a Christian has been married as a Christian and then divorced on the grounds of adultery by the other party, he or she may be remarried.
5. If a Christian has been married as a Christian and then divorced on any grounds other than adultery, he or she may not be remarried but is to remain unmarried or else be reconciled to the other partner.
6. If a Christian has been married as a Christian, divorced and then remarried, this past history is not in itself to be considered a barrier to him or her (or his or her new spouse) becoming a member of the church in good standing.
7. Divorce and remarriage on non-biblical grounds, while sinful acts, are not necessarily more sinful than other sinful acts, and those caught up in them are to be treated with grace, care and compassion.