

Chaplaincy Guideline

Same-Sex Issues

September 23, 2013

Since the inception of the Texas Baptist Chaplaincy program, we have often spoken of chaplaincy as doing “Pastoral Care in Specialized Settings.” Chaplaincy presents unique opportunities for our endorsees to minister to personnel in many venues where other clergy cannot serve. Our pastoral care in these specialized settings will always be shaped by the Bible and Baptist tradition.

Texas Baptists have addressed Biblical sexuality in several Annual Meetings, and have placed themselves on record about our beliefs regarding human sexuality. On November 17, 2009, Texas Baptists approved the following resolution: “Texas Baptists affirm the Biblical sexual ethic of celibacy in singleness, fidelity in marriage, and affirm the Biblical image of marriage as the union, before God, between a man and a woman.”

Therefore, consistent with this resolution, Texas Baptist chaplains will always conduct themselves in a way that complies with our Texas Baptist belief that marriage is a life-long union between a man and a woman. Our ministry practices must adhere to these Biblical standards and historical principles irrespective of any civil law to the contrary. The Texas Baptists Office of Chaplaincy Relations expects full compliance by all of its endorsed chaplains.

Our approach to pastoral care in specialized settings is to perform the ministries we can or seek to provide someone else to do those ministries we cannot. We expect our chaplains to be pastoral as servants of our Lord who loved unconditionally and sought to redeem all with whom He interacted. Jesus Christ is our model – redemptive, gracious and merciful.