

## Our Statement of Faith and Ministry Policy

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We confess Jesus Christ, the one and only Son of the living God, as our Lord and Savior. We are obedient to His command to be baptized by immersion for the forgiveness of sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:1-11; Galatians 3:21; et al). We live with hope because of Jesus' resurrection from the dead and ascension into heaven. We trust in His promise that someday we will dwell in eternal glory with God. We celebrate this hope and trust as we partake of the unleavened bread and the cup of the Lord. These are emblems that represent His broken body and shed blood through which we remember Jesus Christ and proclaim His death till He comes (1 Corinthians 10 and 11).

It is our policy to make the camp and retreat center available to other Christian groups and non-profit organizations so long as the group's purpose and objectives are not perceived to be contrary or contradictory to the teachings of Christ and the Scriptures.

Lake James Christian Assembly, since its inception in 1929, has historically viewed Scripture as the inspired and trustworthy Word of God, and as such, the first and final resource to be consulted in making decisions and policy about issues of morality and values. It is in that spirit that this statement is made about our understanding of marriage.

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, marriage is described consistently as a relationship between a man and a woman. LJCA recognizes that in the culture in which we have been called to serve and bear witness to God, there are multiple views of marriage. We are aware that there are people, including some that would describe themselves as Christian, who view same-sex marriage and other types of immoral behavior as acceptable. We also see that in some states within the United States, same-sex marriages are recognized as legal. We insist that the historic, biblical position of LJCA be acknowledged, respected, and practiced by all directors, employees, volunteers, member churches, and groups utilizing the facilities.

We live in a world that is confused about the definitions and boundaries of human sexuality. LJCA believes that it is important to describe what Scripture sets forth as "sexual morality," without an attempt to list every possible immoral activity. One biblical text that clearly addresses this is found in 1 Corinthians 7:1-7. What is clear in this text is that sexual purity is simply defined as (1) a healthy, fulfilling sexual relationship between a man and a woman married to one another and committed exclusively to that relationship; or (2) celibacy, that is, participating in no intimate sexual activity. We believe that this plain statement accurately reflects appropriate sexual behavior for Christians as they follow Jesus as the Lord of their lives. If a believer is married, he or she will be an appropriate sexual partner only for his or her spouse. If a believer is not in a biblical marriage, he or she will be committed to living a celibate lifestyle.

It is Lake James Christian Assembly's desire to be used of God to fulfill His purpose in the lives of men and women and especially children and youth. We welcome groups that we view as having similar purposes, and reserve the right to exclude groups that teach doctrine or practices that are contrary to our historical, Biblical position, and conscience.