

Bishop Hannington Memorial Church Policy Statement

Extra-marital sexual practice

We believe that God has given an ideal home for all sexual activity, and that this home is marriage, which we understand to be the mutual lifelong commitment of one man with one woman.

We acknowledge that most people experience sexual attraction to others, that many people experience same-sex attraction, and that many people are active sexually outside of marriage. All people are welcome at all three churches in the Bishop Hannington Parish.

We want to give support and help to all those who experience same-sex attraction and all those who are sexually active outside of marriage, and acknowledge that all people are loved by God and open to His grace. We do not believe that sexual attraction is inherently sinful, (either hetero- or homo-sexual attraction) but that all sexual activity outside of marriage is sinful.

In the light of the Equality Act 2007 and the Sexual Orientation Regulations paragraph 14(5), we clarify our doctrinal beliefs to include the following:

We understand the Bible to define marriage as the mutual lifelong commitment of one man with one woman. We follow the teaching of the Bible that all extra-marital sexual practices are sinful and wrong. We believe too that the Bible teaches that we must not actively promote or encourage sinful behaviour in others, and so it is part of our doctrinal belief as a church that we will not condone, promote, assist or encourage in others any sexual activity outside of marriage, as defined above.

Date	Action	Comments
26-Jul-16	Approved by the PCC	replacing earlier policy document entitled "Christian Doctrine"
22-May-18	Reaffirmed by PCC	
19-May-20	Reaffirmed by PCC	