Community Covenant
Chapter on Human Sexuality
William Jessup University

Preamble

William Jessup University is a Christ-centered institution of higher learning dedicated to the holistic formation of students; their academic, mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual formation.

Our University community is comprised of many different groups of people including students, faculty, staff, board members and others. We represent a range of theological positions within the Christian tradition, and the members of the community reflect many different stages in Christian growth. Thus, it is important that those wishing to join with us in fellowship share a common set of expectations, principles, and values with respect to human sexuality.

This Community Covenant Chapter on Human Sexuality is consistent with both the teaching of Scripture and the Christian church tradition (and its origins in the Restoration Movement) that has defined the University since its inception as San Jose Bible College in 1939.

This Community Covenant Chapter on Human Sexuality guides the standards and behaviors of the board members, students, and employees. William Jessup University community and is subject to the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Statement of Faith, and Board Policy.

This Community Covenant Chapter on Human Sexuality is rooted in three foundational assumptions.

- We affirm the human dignity of all individuals, whether or not they agree with this Chapter in the Community Covenant.
- Individual identities are not based solely on gender identity or sexual orientation: as Christians, our primary identity is in Christ.
- The university desires to be a community that is committed to engaging in dialogue about human sexuality, including sexual orientation and gender identity, with humility, sensitivity, compassion, and prayerfulness.

A. The Purpose of Sexuality and Sexual Behavior
We believe that:

1. Humans are “fearfully and wonderfully made” in the image of God, strategically and purposefully as the biological gender with which they were born.
2. God created humans as sexual beings—male and female—to reflect His image.
3. God designed heterosexual union between a male and female, as husband and a wife respectively, as His good and perfect gift to reflect the complementary relationship between Christ and His Church, and this is the model for healthy human sexual relationships.
4. Sexual intimacy is only appropriate within the context of a lifelong commitment in a faithful, monogamous, heterosexual marriage between one biological male and one biological female regardless of how current state or federal law defines marriage. We consider anything beyond this as sin and contrary to the teaching of Scripture.
5. Members of the University community are called to steward the good gift of human sexuality, consistent with the convictions expressed above.

(Genesis 1:26-28; Matthew 19:4-9; Ephesians 5:31-32; Hebrews 13:4; Mark 10:4-12)

B. On Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

We believe that:

1. In our sin nature we can experience frailty, ambiguity and perplexity in various areas of human sexuality, including but not limited to sexual identity and sexual orientation.
2. God’s redemptive love can transform us in all areas, including how we experience our sexuality and gender.
3. Individuals have the ability to choose their behavior and decide how they wish to experience and express their sexuality and gender.
4. Some individuals may struggle with their gender identity and wish to explore living as a particular gender other than that with which they were biologically created. While we support any individual in their struggle with sexual identity, we do not affirm any decision to identify as a gender other than their biological one, including but not limited to a decision to pursue a medical course of action to physically change one’s biological gender.

(Titus 1:12; 1 Peter 1:13-15).

C. Implications

We believe that:

1. An important role of William Jessup University as a Christ-centered institution is to reflect Christ’s love, and God’s instruction on matters concerning human sexuality. We view these responsibilities as mutually inclusive.
2. The University, at its discretion, may provide an opportunity where individuals can, under the guidance and direction of qualified University personnel, express feelings and concerns around gender identity and sexual orientation in an appropriate setting that
extends sensitivity, confidentiality, compassion, and care in a healthful manner consistent with Christian teachings.