

From the Chaplains Work and Care Committee

EPC Chaplains Work and Care Committee Policy Statement:

**Cooperative Ministry with LGBTQ+ Chaplains
- Chaplain Ministry to LGBTQ+ Individuals and Same-Sex Couples**

[Click here to request the background material for this policy statement.](#)

EPC Chaplain Expectations:

1. God alone is Lord of the conscience, and no chaplain of the EPC shall be compelled to participate in a worship service or activity with leadership or other participants whose actions or character violates the moral law of God as expressed in the Constitution of the EPC.
2. EPC Chaplains will always *Love Well* those who they have been entrusted to, and always provide consistent ministry support to them. *Loving Well* means to seek the greatest good for the other person, in light of God's Word, and His Will for them.
3. EPC Chaplains shall treat all individuals, all who Christ loves, with dignity and respect. In respect to this document, regarding LGBTQ+ civilians and military members, as well as those in relationships outside biblical norms, EPC Chaplains will continue to provide this ministry with truth and grace yet avoid compromising personal convictions or the guiding principles and policies of the denomination.
4. To avoid potential compromise, EPC Chaplains should ordinarily refrain, when reasonable and feasible, from co-leading worship with a chaplain who identifies as LGBTQ+. However, public/civic events may often fall outside this direction.
5. EPC Chaplains will always be responsive to the needs, concerns, challenges, and situations of all those to whom they are entrusted to minister. Each person has their own unique circumstances, and the chaplain should ascertain what the needs are, and find the best avenue to either directly support, or redirect to someone who can provide the support the individual is seeking.
6. In maintaining denominational expectations and ordination vows, EPC chaplains shall refrain from providing pre-marital counseling for same-sex couples or performing or participating in same-sex marriages or unions. For relationship counseling to same-sex couples, EPC chaplains will consider how this form of counseling could be construed and avoid compromise.
7. EPC chaplains may engage in couples' retreats, or similar types of events or gatherings where same-sex couples might participate. However, it should be clear that the chaplain adheres to the EPC position that does not condone such relationships and to not give the impression otherwise.
8. EPC Chaplains profess, teach, and live by Scriptural standards of moral law, and follow expectations and standards of the EPC. They practice their ministry of word and deed under the guiding authority of God and the EPC with un-compromising wisdom and discretion.