

- *Statement and Policy on Biblical Sexuality*
 - *Camp Allegheny*

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- Camp Allegheny holds to the principles of Scripture and its application. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the activities, programs, and facilities engaged in by Camp Allegheny further its religious purposes, mission, and the teachings of the Bible, as discerned and directed by the organization. Camp Allegheny facilities have been provided by God and as good stewards Camp Allegheny seeks to use the facilities in a manner consistent with its religious mission and faith beliefs.
- Camp Allegheny is an organization that since its inception has embraced the historic orthodox Christian understanding of Scripture and its teachings with regard to human sexuality, marriage, and the family. Accordingly, we affirm sexuality is a gift from God and basic to human identity and that sexual intimacy is to take place within the context of a marriage covenant between a man and a woman in which they vow and commit, with God's help, to build a loving, life-giving, faithful relationship that will last for a lifetime (Genesis 2:18, 21-24; Hebrews 13:4; Matthew 19:4-9).
- While affirming these teachings on the divine purpose of marriage and human sexuality, Camp Allegheny also affirms the biblical truth that all human beings have value, dignity, and eternal worth because they are created by God and bear his image. Treating others with contempt or disrespect for any reason is unacceptable as it denies the dignity given to human beings by their Creator. For example, gossip about adulterers, disrespect toward prostitutes, and denigration of people because of their sexual or gender preferences are just as wrong and dishonoring to the character of God and teachings of the Bible, as is the underlying conduct.
- Camp Allegheny recognizes that civil rights and biblical morality standards are not necessarily co-extensive, and therefore, that unbiblical sexual preferences should not disqualify one from just application of the law. It does resist, however, the current cultural effort in the name of tolerance to entrench biblically disapproved sexual practices as morally normative. Camp Allegheny recognizes the natural, constitutional, and legal rights of religious organizations to make employment decisions based on religious and faith criteria such as one's convictions and practices regarding human sexuality and other moral issues. Therefore, Camp Allegheny seeks to freely engage in associations for the advancement of its biblical beliefs by aligning in mission board members and staff with only those persons who practice behavior and advocate beliefs that are consistent with biblical teaching.
- Camp Allegheny has a long history of striving to accommodate within our programs individuals from diverse backgrounds, conditions and persuasions. While the heart of our ministry is to serve as many people as possible due to the nature and scope of our programs, facility limitations, and religious beliefs, we also have to recognize that we cannot be all things to all people. We may not be able to serve those with certain types of mental or physical disabilities, those who require certain medications, anyone requiring extreme dietary considerations, those actively practicing a LGBTQ+ lifestyle, and individuals exhibiting certain patterns of violence or who are exhibiting behavior that could reasonably result in harm to others at the camp.
- We expect that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31) nor the doctrines of Camp Allegheny. We desire to treat everyone with the respect, dignity, compassion, and truth of and from Jesus Christ.
- We promote an environment where harassment and bullying are unacceptable. Based on Camp Allegheny sincere religious belief that the Scriptures teach that God created each person as distinctly male or female, requests from campers/families that do not agree with our stance will be handled on a case-by-case basis according to the facts of each situation. Our goal would be to assist them in locating a camp/program that would accommodate their desires.
- If possible, requests will be handled to allow time to have any necessary conversations with the camper/family prior to commencement of the camp week.