

## **McKnight Crossings Position on the LGBTQ+ Community**

### **Introduction**

In recent years, American culture has experienced significant shifts in the areas of gender, sexuality, and identity. These cultural conversations have also surfaced within our congregation, raising questions about how the McKnight Crossings Church of Christ should engage with the LGBTQ+ community.

The Elders have spent many months in prayer, study, and discussion on this important issue, including extended conversations during our May 2025 retreat and in our August 18, 2025 Elder meeting. This statement summarizes our current position and provides guidance for how we intend to shepherd the church with both conviction and compassion.

### **Our Convictions**

After prayer, study, and discussion, we affirm the following:

- Marriage is a sacred covenant designed by God between one man and one woman.
- We hold to Scripture's teaching that same-sex relationships are not consistent with God's design.
- At the same time, we warmly welcome all people — including those in the LGBTQ+ community — to join us in seeking Jesus.
- As with every form of brokenness — greed, gossip, addiction, pride, and more — we extend both grace and truth:
  - Grace: to love people as they are.
  - Truth: to call all people to transformation in Christ.

We desire to be a church where it is safe to belong while learning to believe, and where every person is invited into the lifelong journey of becoming like Jesus.

### **Ministry Practice**

As we seek to live out these convictions, the Elders provide the following guidance:

#### **1. Baptism and Salvation**

- We will not require perfection before coming to Christ. Just as someone struggling with addiction may come to Jesus before achieving sobriety, those experiencing same-sex attraction may also come to Him for salvation.
- Therefore, individuals from the LGBTQ+ community may be baptized and begin their walk of faith at McKnight Crossings.

#### **2. Participation in Church Life**

- We welcome all people to attend worship, classes, and fellowship activities.
- As with other social norms, appropriate behavior and respectful conduct are expected (e.g., avoiding crass language, dressing modestly). Concerns will be addressed privately and lovingly.

- Individuals experiencing same-sex attraction may participate in many ministries (e.g., Food Pantry, AV team, building maintenance, service projects). Leadership and teaching roles will remain aligned with our core beliefs.

### **3. Membership and Discipleship**

- McKnight Crossings encourages all believers to pursue a lifestyle consistent with the mission and teachings of Christ.
- For those in the LGBTQ+ community, this means affirming God's design for sexuality and marriage. While same-sex attraction itself is not sin, acting upon those desires in same-sex relationships is inconsistent with biblical teaching.
- We distinguish between those who experience same-sex attraction and remain celibate, and those who are actively practicing homosexuality.

### **4. Marriage and Weddings**

- Because we hold to the biblical covenant of marriage as between a man and a woman, we will not permit same-sex marriages to be performed in our building.
- Likewise, Elders and ministers of McKnight Crossings will not officiate same-sex weddings.

### **Our Aim**

The mission of the church is not to make people comfortable, but to make disciples of Jesus Christ. This call to discipleship requires change from all of us and often brings discomfort — yet it is the only way to find true life, purpose, and joy.

Our commitment is to walk alongside all people with love, patience, and humility, extending the same grace we ourselves have received, while holding firmly to God's Word as our guide.

### **Resources and Ongoing Reflection**

In forming this position, the Elders considered the questions raised in *Messy Grace* by Caleb Kaltenbach (see [Attachment A](#)). These questions continue to help us think carefully about how to extend both hospitality and holiness in our ministry.

Messy Grace by Caleb Kaltenbach

**LGBTQ+ Questions for Your Church to Consider**

1. Would you allow a same-sex couple to attend your church?
2. What would the reaction be if two men were holding hands in the lobby of your building?
3. Could a lesbian couple who attend your church also attend a parenting class that you're putting on (because their child is in your children's ministry)?
4. Could an LGBT couple attend a community group or Bible study?
5. Could an LGBT couple serve anywhere in your church? If so, where? Why or why not?
6. Would an LGBT couple or person be allowed to go on a mission trip?
7. Would an openly gay man be allowed to attend a men's retreat if he wanted to?
8. What is the plan for the student ministry staff and volunteers when a teenager comes out or expresses same-sex attraction?
9. How do you love and support LGBT teenagers who are in your church?
10. Does your church have a plan to support parents whose kids have come out when the parents are unsure of how to respond?
11. What happens when someone involved in your church comes out and sees no contradiction between homosexuality and God's laws in Scripture?
12. Is your church a place where someone who has been in the LGBT community (but is currently not) can attend and be involved?
13. Would your church be open to having dialogue with people from the LGBT community who aren't in your church?
14. How does your pastor address LGBT issues in sermons?
15. What if a lesbian wanted to be baptized?
16. Could an openly gay man join your church as a member?
17. What would your staff do if an LGBT couple came to your church wanting to be married?
18. What would the reaction be if member had a sex change and still attended your church?