



## **PUC statement on marriage**

This statement was developed in August 2015 by the Senior Leadership Team of Pittwater Uniting Church.

### **Changing world**

From the very beginning of our history the church of Jesus Christ has been committed to a unique life-style that has always been independent of the changing values of society. (1 Peter 2:11-12)

We recognise that we live in a secular society that may choose to legislate the ordering of national life contrary to our perceived Christian values. We would seek to respond in accordance with the wisdom of Christ who taught us that we should render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's (Matthew 22:21). This is to say that if our society were to require behaviour contrary to the teachings of Christ and the scriptures we would be bound to put Christ first.

### **Marriage practices**

Specifically this means that if marriage legislation were to change and our church was asked to perform a service of marriage between non-heterosexual couples our policy would be to gently and pastorally explain our church's understanding that Christian marriage is between males and females (Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 5:31-33), that in all good conscience we could not perform such a marriage but that we will continue to love and support those of our people who might make the decision to pursue a marriage ceremony outside of our church.

### **Faithfulness and love**

The Senior Leadership Team recognises that this is a difficult issue pulling us between two equally important imperatives of faithfulness to the scriptures and Christ's command to radically love our neighbour (Mark 12:31). As difficult as it might be we are committed to walking this line of faithfulness and love and call all members of our congregation to respond to these changing times by maintaining love and respect for all people, irrespective of their life-style practices (Luke 6:27-31, Romans 12:21, Galatians 6:7-10).