



22 December 2017

### **The National Council of Churches of Singapore Reaffirms its Position on Homosexuality**

On 17 December 2017, *The Straits Times* published an article written by Yuen Sin entitled, 'Churches Building Bridges with LGBT Christians' suggesting that the attitude of some Christians towards the LGBT community is changing.

On the basis of this article, some members have enquired if there is a change in the National Council of Churches' position on homosexuality. The Council wishes to assure all members that its position on homosexuality has not changed.

In July 2003, the NCCS issued a statement in which it plainly asserts that 'Recognizing the Bible as the authoritative standard for its faith and practice, the Church has historically and consistently held the view that the practice of homosexuality is clearly incompatible with the teachings of the Christian faith'.

The Council goes on to state quite categorically that it 'does not condone homosexual practice and ... considers the homosexual lifestyle as sinful and unacceptable'.

While rejecting homosexual acts as sinful, the Council is also emphatic that 'homosexuals should be regarded and treated no less as persons of worth and dignity'. It therefore rejects homophobia and every kind of discrimination against homosexuals. The full statement may be found at [NCCS Statement July 2003](#).

The ST article also mentioned a survey conducted by the Ethos Institute for Public Christianity, a Christian think-tank formed by NCCS, Trinity Theological College and the Bible Society of Singapore. This extensive survey has been completed and the Ethos Institute will be organising a closed-door meeting next year to share its findings and examine their ramifications with member churches.

As a resource for its members, NCCS published a book entitled, *Homosexuality: Questions and Answers* in 2014 which explains its position on same-sex relations in its many different aspects.

In holding firmly to the Bible as the authoritative standard for its faith and practice, NCCS exhorts Christians to care for all persons and for one another with the love of Christ our Lord. While our theological and moral position on homosexuality has not changed, our commitment to care for same-sex attracted persons causes our member churches to keep seeking appropriate and compassionate ways to relate and reach out to them with the life-changing power of our faith, namely the gospel of forgiveness and new life in Jesus Christ.

It is our hope that the above clarifies the position of NCCS.