Foundational Beliefs and Policies Regarding Human Sexuality

I. Biblical/Theological Position

LPU's biblical/theological position on sexual orientation and gender identity topics is guided by our distinctives: Scripture, Grace-Based Community, Foursquare Heritage, and Global Awareness; and formed around four areas of theological development: the creation of humankind, humanity's fall, marriage and sexual activity, and living in grace and hope. These areas provide principles for guiding pastoral care of students and staff, as well as, for establishing policies and practices and are described in detail in the SOGI Biblical-Theological and Pastoral Position Paper (available on the LPU website or upon request).

The following Belief statements communicated on the LPU website and in the LPU Catalog provide a short summary of the University's position on theological topics related to human sexuality.

Creation of humankind

We believe God created humankind, male and female, in his image and likeness; therefore, each human life is sacred possessing dignity, worth, and purpose (Genesis 1:27; 2:18-22).

Marriage

We believe marriage is the permanent, exclusive, legally-binding, covenantal relationship between one man and one woman, established by God for the welfare and happiness of humankind, to mirror his love for us in Christ, to refine our character, to allow for joyful participation with God in the creative process through procreation, to secure the stability necessary for the nurture of children produced by the marital union, and to reflect the unity of the triune God (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:3-8).

Gender

We believe God created humans as a biologically-sexed (male and female) pair, in biological sex at birth as a core distinction between males and females, and an individual's sex at birth as the determining factor for gender identity (Gen. 1:26-27; Matt. 19:4; Mark. 10:6).

Sanctity and Value of Life

We believe in the sanctity of life and the God-given right of each person to live out his or her full life from conception to natural death (Psalm 139:13-14). We believe all forms of abuse, slander, dehumanization, or oppression toward fellow human beings is an affront against God's sacred image and to God's purposes (Ja. 3:9-10) and enjoins us to respond with love, truth, and grace (Matt. 18:15-20; Gal. 6:1).

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II. Admissions and Enrollment

The University will consider any prospective student for admission if they meet the entrance requirements for academic and spiritual preparedness, which includes a demonstrated commitment to uphold and abide by the university's statement of beliefs and Community Life Agreement (i.e., code of conduct). In compliance with federal and state regulations, LPU does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, gender, color, national and ethnic origin, physical ability, status as a veteran, or any other characteristic protected by law to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities offered to students at the University. While LPU does not exclude students from attendance or limit educational activities based solely on sexual orientation or gender identity, our biblical beliefs regarding human sexuality and gender do inform and animate many of our policies and practices. Therefore, LPU has applied for and been granted a religious exemption by the Department of Education from certain provisions of Title IX and its implementing regulations to the extent that they are interpreted to reach gender identity or sexual orientation discrimination, and to the extent they restrict the University's freedom to apply and enforce its Belief Statements.

Applicants whose personal beliefs and values differ from LPU's should reconsider whether LPU is the best option for their pursuit of a degree. If an applicant is unable to uphold and abide by the university's statement of beliefs and Community Life Agreement, they will be disqualified from admission. If an applicant is aligned with the university's beliefs and conduct expectations, while wrestling with a personal struggle in any area, they will be considered for admission in light of their ability to succeed at LPU. All official student data (including, but not limited to admissions applications, enrollment data, alumni records, and transcripts) and decisions (including, but not limited to housing assignments and the application of other residential policies) will reflect a student's gender at birth.

III. Student Care & Conduct

Once enrolled, students must hold to the Community Life Agreement. We recognize that LPU's beliefs and standards may raise questions and challenges for students who experience same-sex attraction or questions about their gender identity. We commit to love and listen to one another in grace and truth, respecting each other's dignity as created in God's image while also honoring the biblical witness regarding sexuality. If a student changes views after signing this agreement and chooses to not live within this framework, the university considers each matter through a respectful and grace-filled approach. Each violation will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may involve disciplinary action. All reported violations will be forwarded to the Office of Student Development. Throughout the conduct process, our goal is to ensure students are supported, empowered, held to a high level of accountability, and grow throughout the process.

IV. Harassment & Bullying

All members of the LPU community are expected to treat one another with respect and Christ-like compassion. Any form of abuse, slander, dehumanization, insults, slurs and other forms of derogatory speech or behavior have no place in a Christian community and will not be tolerated. This includes the threat of physical or emotional harm in any

communicated form. Harassment should be reported immediately to the Vice President of Student Development, or Senior Title IX coordinator and will be directly addressed by the university. We are committed to making LPU a safe, grace-based environment where people can engage in healthy and respectful dialogue.