

*The following statement—formed by the elders of Newberg Friends Church, discussed and approved by its administrative committee and by the congregation—is intended to be a clarifying statement for our local ministry in accord with and support of Faith and Practice of Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church. It represents what we believe is our commitment to positive ministry within the framework of Northwest Yearly Meeting. Approval of the basic substance of the statement was made on January 21, 2018.*

### **Elders' Statement on Human Sexuality Newberg Friends Church**

Scripture affirms all people are made in the image of God and dearly loved by God.

Scripture teaches we are all sinners saved by grace, called to a life of Christian love and discipline, and dependent on divine help and the body of Christ.

Our study of scripture leads us to believe that God designed sexual intimacy solely for expression within the marriage commitment between one man and one woman. God calls those not married to abstain from sexual intimacy. Other forms of sexual practice, including heterosexual relations outside of marriage, homosexual relations, and any kind of sexual abuse go against God's plans and purposes for humanity.

Regarding sexual sin, like other sins, the issue is behavior; not identity, orientation, desire, or temptation. We are all tempted to sin in various ways. God's grace can deliver us from sin of any kind, and his Spirit enables us to live our lives in ways that please him. We extend love to all our brothers and sisters, just as we know God does, including those who struggle with sexual temptation.

We extend welcome and love to everyone worshiping with us, even if we differ in understanding about God's will or human sexuality.

We look to the time when God makes all things new, when disciples of Jesus are one and we are all made perfect in love.