

Celebrants Marriage Requirements

This document has been prepared to give some guidance for celebrants recognised within Christian Community Churches of New Zealand Trust (CCCNZ) around their requirements in terms of same sex marriages.

Marriage (Definition of Marriage) Amendment Act 2013

Section 29 amended (Licence authorizes but not obliges marriage celebrant to solemnise marriage)

(1) A marriage licence shall authorise but not oblige any marriage celebrant to solemnise the marriage to which it relates.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), no celebrant who is a minister of religion recognised by a religious body enumerated in Schedule 1, and no celebrant who is a person nominated to solemnize marriages by an approved organisation, is obliged to solemnize a marriage if solemnizing that marriage would contravene the religious beliefs of the religious body or the religious beliefs or philosophical or humanitarian convictions of the approved organisation.”

Christian Community Churches of New Zealand (CCCNZ) Statement of Faith

Christian Community Churches of New Zealand Trust (CCCNZ) is an approved organisation as stipulated in Section 29 (2) of the Marriage (Definition of Marriage) Amendment Act 2013. Therefore, any celebrant recognised within this organisation, seeks to uphold the Statement of Faith outlined in the Trust Deed, dated 25 November 2016.

Point three in the Statement of Faith outlines who a CCCNZ Celebrant can solemnise a marriage for as:

- 3. The crown of God's creation is humanity, whom He has made in His image to reflect His glory. He made Adam and Eve male and female, and breathed into them the spirit of life so that they became living souls capable of enjoying a personal relationship with him. He established the relationship of man and woman in marriage as a covenant.*

Adapted and used with permission from Pathways College of Bible and Mission, Academic Prospectus 2014

CCCNZ Standing

Therefore, based on the stipulations within the Marriage (Definition of Marriage) Amendment Act 2013, all celebrants who are registered to solemnise marriages in New Zealand and are registered as a celebrant within the approved organisation of CCCNZ, must adhere to the Statement of Faith.

In doing so, the statement specifically states that the sanctity of marriage is a covenant between a man and woman, therefore CCCNZ registered celebrants will not conduct same sex marriages.

Signed on behalf of CCCNZ



Gordon Fountain
Chair
31 August 2018