



Dear First Baptist Family,

You are receiving this letter because our records indicate at least one person in your household is a member of First Baptist Church Jacksonville. On Sunday, October 9, 2022 our church took a bold step to approve a statement on biblical sexuality that every member of our church is required to sign to maintain their membership. Though the vote to take this action was overwhelming it is also an unusual step, and I am writing this letter to explain that action to you.

I know you will agree that we are living in unprecedented days where people are debating truths that have been acknowledged since the dawn of time. There is a basic level of confusion regarding who men and women are, what marriage is, and the nature of the sexual relationship in marriage. Our church is not now and never has been confused about these matters, but we live in a culture that is. That confused culture ends up being a threat to our ability to do ministry.

Consider that we are alive in a day when a federal judge has required a religious organization, Yeshiva University, to host gay and lesbian groups on their campus. This university is a confessional Jewish organization that is just as committed to their religion as we are to ours. They disagree with the LGBTQ agenda on biblical grounds, and yet, as of today, a federal court would require them to do the opposite of what they believe. Anyone who thought this could never happen in America must think again.

We are living in a day when, at any moment, we could be sued regarding who can be a member, who can be employed as a pastor, and even whether biological men can use the same restrooms as the ladies in our congregation. It would be a dereliction of duty for us to refuse to take this threat seriously.

After receiving much legal wisdom, our pastors and deacons decided unanimously to recommend that our church require every member to assert their agreement with our statement on biblical sexuality. Such agreement constitutes the best legal protection against any potential lawsuit. Our church ultimately agreed with this wisdom.

According to the church vote, we have until March 19, 2023 to get as many of our members as possible to sign this form and maintain their membership. This is what we want to do. We want everyone who wants to be a member to remain one. That is the reason for this letter. We want to ensure you are aware of this requirement, and to ask your help in spreading the word to other members who may be unaware.

In these confusing times, I am so thankful to be the pastor of church that is not confused and is willing to stand on God's Word. It is only in taking such a stand that we can hope to share the love of Christ with a lost world dying in sin.

If you have not already completed this form, please fill out *one form per individual* and mail to 125 West Ashley Street, Jacksonville FL, 32202, postmarked no later than March 19, 2023. If you would like to drop off your signed statement in person, we have drop boxes available at both our Downtown and Nocatee campuses. For any further questions or to request more copies of the form for individuals in your household, please contact the church office at (904) 356-6077 from 8:30 AM — 4:30 PM Mondays through Thursdays.

Blessings to you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heath", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pastor Heath



(904) 356-6077

125 West Ashley St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

[fbcjax.com](http://fbcjax.com)