



The Elders' Council at The Gathering Church is committed to addressing doctrinal and ethical issues that relate to contemporary challenges to Christian faith and practice. Position Statements are meant to offer clear and concise descriptions of the official stance held by The Gathering Church at any given time.

Any inconsistency between the Position Statements and the Statement of Belief shall be deemed to defer to and accept the meaning or position set out in the Statement of Belief

Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy

Danvers Statement (Biblical Manhood and Womanhood)

The Nashville Statement (Biblical Human Sexuality)

Statement on Bill C-4

Bill C-4 on “conversion therapy” recently received Royal Assent and came into force on January 7th, 2022. The following statement, prepared by the Canadian Religious Freedom Summit (freedomsummit.ca) is a statement intended to be read publicly by like-minded churches in Canada on January 9th, 2022, as a response to the passing of this Bill. The Gathering Church made this announcement in two services, Saturday, January 8th, and Sunday, January 9th. The contents of this statement reflects the conviction of The Gathering Church on this issue as agreed to by its elders.

"This past week marked a monumental change in Canadian law and society with the enactment of federal Bill C-4, which amends the Criminal Code.

The law's stated purpose is to outlaw “conversion therapy”. We strongly oppose the coercive and unscientific therapeutic practices the Bill was introduced to address. We appreciate and affirm the desire of parliamentarians to protect the vulnerable. However, we should be deeply concerned that the effective reach of the legislation could be extended far beyond its stated purpose. Because its definition of “conversion therapy” is vague, many are concerned that it could capture parents, pastors and counsellors who teach a biblical understanding of sexuality in a variety of situations. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees our freedoms of religion, conscience, thought, belief, expression and association. It is our prayer that the law will be applied – and clarified as needed – in such a way as to honour these Charter protections.



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We recognize that the greatest danger facing the Canadian church is not that we might face criminal prosecution, but rather that we might compromise in our teaching of the Word of God or fall silent in our proclamation of the gospel. Along with several church leaders of like conviction across Canada, the elders of our church pledge that we are committed to obeying God above all others (Acts 5:29). With the Lord's help, we will continue to proclaim the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27) without fear or favour. This includes God's life-giving design for human beings, made in His image, male and female (Genesis 1:27), with sexual intimacy reserved for the covenantal union of a man and a woman (Genesis 2:24). We will continue to issue the call to repent of all kinds of sin and to believe the gospel, knowing that we all have sinned (Romans 3:23), and that salvation through Jesus is the one true hope for the world (Acts 4:12).

We will continue to love and serve all people in our community, without distinction, in Jesus' name. As we press on in the work of ministry, we will trust our Heavenly Father to guard us and keep us, and to work out His greater purposes for our good and His glory.

We continue to pray for our government, and to plead with the Lord to have mercy on our needy land."

*Approved by the Elders
January 5, 2022*