

For reasons stated below The Church of God in Virginia (COGVA) hereby calls on Church of God Ministries Inc. to:

Issue a clear and strong statement clarifying that the chogaffirm.com website is in violation of who the Church of God is by:

- Directing people to readable text of the General Assembly's statements on related matters, and
- To state clearly the Biblical mandate to love (not affirm), all people and no sin, repentance, and redemption, and
- Ensure that all credentials violations related to chogaffirm.com are dealt with guidance and direction from the most recent Credentials Manual of the Church of God.

On June 1, 2023, the Executive Board of The Church of God in Virginia (COGVA) met in regular session. Among other agenda items, a discussion took place concerning the chogaffirm.com website, and the response later in the day from Church of God Ministries, Inc. At the direction and with full support of the Executive Board of COGVA, The following has been drafted from a portion of an email sent to our pastors on May 26, 2023, and we are aligning ourselves with the excellent statement from Indiana Ministries found at this link which you are encouraged to read: <https://indianaministries.org/>

This morning (May 26, 2023) I was pointed to a website that seems to have our branding of the Church of God throughout it. This website is the culmination of many folks who seek opportunities to make the Church of God an affirming organization for the LGBTQ+ agenda.. They have sought opportunities to bring these issues to the floor of the General Assembly for many years. They have been vocal, as folks of the same mindset have been in other fellowships, i.e. the United Methodist church, among others. I am given to understand this website and its signatories have formed this website seeking a greater audience within our movement. I would ask you to take the time to read it, paying particular attention to the mindset of opposition to anything that squelches their narrative. For example - *"We strongly oppose the use of credentialing and belief statements, threats to ministers' livelihoods through revocation or ordination, and potential threats to congregational property through conditional deeding to enforce unanimity on the issue of LGBTQ affirmation, especially during a time of intense theological and anthropological debate on the subject."*

At the later end of the afternoon, concerning this website, Church of God Ministries put out a lukewarm statement citing the following:

"Church of God Ministries is the office of the General Assembly. Often there are individuals and groups that use the name Church of God on social media platforms, websites, and free-standing initiatives that have no affiliation with our office. The best way to remain up-to-date with the information and news related to the General Assembly of the Church of God is through jesusisthesubject.org, our official Facebook: facebook.com/chogministries, Instagram: instagram.com/chogministries, and/or Twitter: twitter.com/ChoGMinistries.

Should you have any questions about our position or posture on race, sexual ethics, or any other topic, please give us a call at 800-848-2464."

We feel it would have been a stronger statement if they had pointed to the four General Assembly Resolutions passed between 1979 and 2014. They can be found here [G.A. Resolutions LGBTQ+ related 1979-2014](#)

Understand very clearly the following:

The Bible forms the Church's ethic, and we are to speak to culture not the other way around.

We are committed to the Bible's very clear command to love and we understand that love both by example and command to be a much higher calling than simply affirming what culture desires.

As people created in the image of God we have choice and determination. We are not governed by desire or automatic response in sexual ethics, relationships or any other areas of life. We cannot endorse the degradation of God's image in any human being.

The Credentials Manual of the Church of God, a covenant statement voluntarily accepted by all credentialed ministers and congregations clearly, in multiple places, does not affirm the LGBTQ+ lifestyle, agenda, belief or acceptance. Therefore, participation in chogaffirm.com or other related affirmations is a credentials matter, and will be dealt on each individual basis.