



<i>Approved by:</i> 		<b>Proposal Number: REL – 1/09</b>
<b>Initiative Proposal: Stand4Marriage Sunday</b>  <b>THE FAMILY POLICY COUNCIL</b> OF WEST VIRGINIA	<b>Objective:</b> To articulate the Biblical definition of marriage and, as a church body, demonstrate corporate commitment to marriage as one man and one woman.	
	<b>Original Proposal Created:</b> 2/5/09	<b>Proposal Last Revised:</b> 2/5/09

**Statement of the Problem:** Many churches in West Virginia support the Biblical definition of marriage, yet are often wary of discussing from the pulpit a moral issue that necessarily crosses over into the realm of public policy. Yet, there is a concerted, national effort targeted at redefining the Biblical definition of marriage, depending upon a church’s reluctance to speak Truth to culture on matters touching upon public policy for their success. West Virginia law appears ready to allow the redefinition of marriage, unless a marriage protection amendment (MPA) is added to the Constitution of West Virginia. However, the political leadership of West Virginia will not allow West Virginians the opportunity to vote upon a MPA unless the Church at West Virginia graciously, but resolutely, asks the Legislature to permit the vote in 2009.

**Proposed Solution:** The Family Policy Council of West Virginia (FPCWV) is encouraging churches from throughout West Virginia to host a **“Stand4Marriage Sunday” on Sunday, March 1, 2009.** The purpose of “Stand4Marriage Sunday” is:

- To make West Virginians aware of the threat posed to the Biblical definition of marriage.
- To demonstrate the church body’s commitment to the Biblical definition of marriage and instruct the church members on God’s design for marriage.
- To provide an opportunity for church members to apply this knowledge according to their duty to submit to government (Romans 13, I Timothy 1:1-2).

Participating churches on “Stand4Marriage Sunday” are asked to consider doing all or some of the following activities during their morning service(s) on March 1, 2009:

- Spend time intentionally praying for strong marriages in West Virginia *and* for our elected policymakers. Encourage congregants to make praying for marriage and politicians a routine part of their prayer life.
- Preach about God’s design for marriage.
- Play one or more educational videos made available via [www.wv4marriage.com](http://www.wv4marriage.com) and/or on a DVD produced by the Family Research Council in cooperation with the FPCWV.
- Send church members to [www.wv4marriage.com](http://www.wv4marriage.com) for more information.
- Encourage church members to call, write, and/or meet individually with their elected officials during the week following “Stand4Marriage Sunday.” Emphasize that these conversations should be marked by the character of Christ – presented with love and grace.
- Place a “Stand4Marriage” bulletin insert in that Sunday’s bulletin and make extra copies available during the following weeks.
- Ask church members to financially support the WV4Marriage campaign efforts.

In the weeks following “Stand4Marriage Sunday,” continue to remind congregants of the efforts to defend marriage by showing additional videos, distributing flyers, and praying for strong marriages in West Virginia. Encourage them to keep praying for and talking to their legislators.

*If you have specific questions about “Stand4Marriage Sunday,” call 304-982-2803.*