

Members of the Commission on the Marriage Canon:

I write as a committed Anglican Christian who loves his church.

The proposal to sanction same-sex marriage in Canon Law has deeply hurt myself and many of my fellow-parishioners. It seems that our shepherds are not leading us beside still waters and appear determined instead to lead us over a precipice.

First, this proposal stands in direct contradiction of the eternal word of God as delivered by His servant Moses, and later acknowledged and amplified by our lord Jesus. The apostle Paul has written very clearly on this matter, and these Scriptures have been accepted as inviolable Truth by Christian believers for thousands of ears.

Second, passage of this motion will serve to separate us further from the worldwide Anglican fellowship. The majority of our Anglican brothers and sisters around the world view this proposal in disbelief and I cannot see them remaining united with us if the proposal passes. Furthermore, we will most certainly alienate ourselves from a large portion of the much-larger non-Anglican body of Christ.

Third, many of us who have remained in the Anglican fellowship would not be able to continue as Anglican Church members if this motion were passed. A sizeable number of our parishioners already stand with "one foot out the door".

From a practical business point of view, passage of this motion will accelerate the process we are witnessing here on the West Coast, where the Anglican Church is beginning to look more like a glorified real-estate holding company, responsible for nearly-unoccupied buildings and an ever-increasing revenue shortfall.

Christ has called us out of our society in order to be separate, so that we can provide light and life to a hurting world. Our Lord can remove that light from our lampstand and give it to others if we do not remain faithful.

Dear leaders, please consider this matter prayerfully, and lead us in the right path.

Yours in Christ, Dr. Bernie Toews M.D.