

To the Marriage Commission of the Anglican Church of Canada from the Niagara Chapter of the Anglican Communion Alliance

Thank you for the opportunity of sending in a submission.

First of all, we heartily endorse Roseanne Kydd's 2013 book, *Same Sex Marriage* and hope it will be required reading. She has covered the shifting politics in Church and State around Homosexuality and has noted the confusion, deliberate or otherwise, on the unfolding of this issue over the years. We particularly appreciate her noting that in many cases marriage is simply treated or defined as a "loving relationship." The English word 'love', as we know, covers a variety of meanings, and we must be careful to distinguish eros from agape. Marriage in world cultures from pre-history has been about erotic relationship, God's gracious gift to us to be used in the context of Holy Matrimony. Its purpose is to bond the two halves of humanity, male and female, in fidelity, and from the fruit of this relationship come children. The notion of procreation is virtually absent from contemporary discussions, but is essential when we are discussing Marriage in the Bible. We are not simply disembodied "persons," as in Greek and Hindu thought, viewing the human body as a tool to carry out our desires. The human body, male or female, is integral to the discussion of what makes us human. Procreation is ultimately what sexual relationships are about, and what a blessing it is, a reflection of the image of God, that out of love for our opposite sex partner, we are able to bring new life into the world. This is what Christian Marriage is about, not jargon about "loving relationships".

Out of fidelity to the Biblical view we must affirm marriage as about procreation. To think otherwise is to slip into the world's assumptions, however subtle and enticing they may be. Secondly, we must note the number of Anglicans who have left our Churches in the last decade, many in tears and grief. This will prove to be but a trickle compared to those who will leave when Same Sex Blessings become Marriage. We point out the obvious truth that liberal Protestant Churches in the West, among which we must sadly now place the ACC, have drastically declined, but Churches with a strong doctrinal and Biblical basis have grown. Please let us not continue the exodus with ill-thought through redefinitions of Christian Marriage.