

To:
Commission on Marriage Canon
Anglican Church of Canada
80 Hayden Street
Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

From:
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Dear Commission Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide are comments. Hopefully they assist you in your deliberations. Here is our submission:

- How do you interpret what scripture says about marriage?

In the context of the day, and based upon an historical perspective we might find two separate interpretations. One written by scholars who were largely patriarchal, so it would be written from a male perspective. That seems to dictate that only heterosexuals would be married. If you take the scripture from a more balanced between patriarchal/matriarchal perspective, then the interpretation would read persons rather than dictating man and woman.

- How do you understand the theological significance of gender difference in marriage?

Again it depends on the historical perspective or context that you ask the questions. We believe that if the bible were written today it would not focus so much on man and woman, as opposed to a person(s) and their relationship with the Trinity

- Is there a distinction between civil marriage and Christian marriage?

Yes, some who are from a faith community wish the blessing of God/Christ on their marriage.

- The marriage canon describes “the purposes of marriage” as mutual fellowship, support, and comfort; the procreation (if it may be) and nurture of children; and the creation of a relationship in which sexuality may serve personal fulfillment in a community of faithful love. What is the theological significance of:
 - Companionship in marriage?

God asks us to care for each other—to love one another, support each other, as each person brings different gifts to the relationship

- Bearing and raising children?

We assume God has asked us to sustain creation; that involves a life long commitment to assure that we nurture our descendants

- The relationship between marriage and sexuality?

Sexuality is showing love and is part of marriage; where there is willingness on the part of both parties, there is respect, love and caring—and there God is. Marriage is not the only place where sexuality can exist, but every marriage should aspire to it.

- What is the difference between marriage and the blessing of a relationship?

Blessing = recognition

Marriage = a sacrament, something that is holy

- How do you understand the sacramentality of marriage?

We believe this is two people, asking through the mediation of a priest, for God's blessing their union and thus it is a holy sacrament (see above)