

Monday, September-29-14

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

Re:
Rigaberta Jeremiah Fidelia Godron
Church of St. John the Divine
1611 Quadra St.
Victoria, BC V8W 2L5

- How do you interpret what scripture says about marriage?

I am new to attending church and have not studied theology; however, as a lay person, even I know that GOD IS LOVE and that Jesus said, “love your neighbour as yourself...” :therefore I interpret this to mean that my neighbour has the right to marry whomever they love regardless of gender or sex.

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

I do not understand what the significance of gender difference in marriage is because I believe that the holy trinity is vague as to gender and that the female role in faith has been reduced or lost through translations of the bible throughout history; notwithstanding, gender differences are simply roles that individuals exhibit as part of their own person and in marriage it is a spectrum of how these roles are contrasted and or complemented that combines into the union.

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

July 28th 1996 we eloped to Las Vegas, Nevada and the Christian marriage ceremony was performed by Pastor Jeff Gustafson of Universal Life Church at “Cupid’s Wedding Chapel”.

August 26th 1997 we had a vow renewal officiated by a friend in front of our family at Finlayson Point in Beacon Hill Park in Victoria British Columbia.

September 24th 1998 we had a marriage commissioner perform a civil service witnessed by two of my classmates at the Rose Garden at UBC in Vancouver.

At UBC we received a legal document that was accepted by Immigration Canada.

In my hometown surrounded by relatives a few tears were shed as we read our handwritten vows.

When pastor Gustafson read from Corinthians 13:4, “Love is patient...” and as he said, “let no man tear asunder...” I felt the presence of GOD and having been raised atheist, I was shocked to find myself suddenly converted to a GOD fearing woman and I instantly felt the gravity of the Christian 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 fulfilment in a community of faithful love. What is the theological significance of:

- companionship in marriage?

As we make our walk in faith it is our companion who holds our hand.

- bearing and raising children?

It is the will of GOD whether or not we raise children.

- the relationship between marriage and sexuality?

Intimacy is the cornerstone of a relationship but in sickness and in health that may or may not include sexual relations.

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

A marriage is GOD joining two individuals into one.

A blessing is consent for a way of life.

- How do you understand the sacramentality of marriage?

Marriage is sacrosanct.