

Like the members of this Commission and many others in the Anglican family I have wrestled with the issue of same sex couples in light of Scriptures' teaching and my life's experience of knowing a number of committed Christians who have felt excluded from various churches....not only Anglican...because of their sexual orientation. The anguish of some has been great and we have to admit the church has not always dealt kindly with these non-conformist believers. Jesus showed us in deed and word the unconditional love of our Heavenly Father for all humanity and this has always been a challenge in the life of the church through the ages and in our personal response to people who come into our lives too.

However when it comes to Marriage I do stand firm that this one relationship was ordained by God as a joining of man and woman for comfort and support and the creation of new life. As far as same sex relationships are concerned I have come to accept their validity and seen love and faithfulness expressed between partners so as Pope Francis has recently declared.....who am I to judge?? I have often wondered if a name other than Marriage might have helped us in our acceptance of such unions.

For all Commission members I pray the Holy Spirit will keep your hearts and minds open as you continue to seek the way forward in love and peace.

Sincerely

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