

June 9, 2014

To each and every member of the voting committee;

I was born May 15, 1989 in the city of Windsor, Ontario. I was raised in the Church and attended mass regularly at All Saint's Anglican Church and learned very valuable lessons while a member of the congregation. I grew up in Sunday school, became a server and then a Sunday school instructor. One of my fondest memories was having the Church pay for me and several other youth to attend summer camp at Huron Church Camp in Bayfield, Ontario under the supervision of Rev. Gerry Adams.

My Church gave me this privilege year after year because it cared for me. Unfortunately I am no longer a member of that congregation, this is not just so because I am a citizen of Toronto now, but because as a Christian I feel as though I am not welcomed. I feel unloved in the eyes of the oppressors. I am a gay man. I am 25 years old and I have lost the confidence that my Church would accept me for who I am. It is disheartening to feel like my sexual orientation ostracizes me from a community I cared so much for. I believe that my creativity, my outgoing personality and my compassion for others have come from my up bringing in the Anglican Church.

I witnessed my parents marriage at All Saint's Anglican Church on October 21, 1995 and vowed to be wed to the person I love someday. Well that someday is quickly approaching. I am in a loving relationship with a man whom I've known for 5 years now and though it would bring me great joy to marry him in the Church I cannot bring myself to even think of that idea for fear of rejection and un-Christian like conduct.

I seek equal-marriage rights in the Anglican Church and until it is possible the Church has lost one young member. I urge you to take a stand and allow same-sex couples the right to marry in the Anglican Church and open your arms with love, understanding and compassion for all the members who feel unloved from your so-called place of Faith.

Respectfully yours,

Matthew Dumouchel
416-558-1008
303-99 Hayden St
Toronto, Ontario
M4Y3B4