

July 30, 2014

To the members of the Anglican Church of Canada Commission on the Marriage Canon,

I think it would be wise of you to invite Professor Robert Gagnon to help you fulfill your mandate. You are required to create a “biblical and theological rationale for this change in teaching on the nature of Christian marriage. “

Robert A. J. Gagnon is Associate Professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. He has a B.A. degree from Dartmouth College, an M.T.S. from Harvard Divinity School, and a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. His main fields of interest are Pauline theology and sexual issues in the Bible.

He has previously responded to an Anglican Church of Canada paper distributed to delegates at General Synod in 2007. The paper was titled “Making the Case: The Blessing of Same Sex Unions in the Anglican Church of Canada” (May 2007) by John Thorpe. Gagnon’s paper was titled, “Case Not Made: A Response to Prof. John Thorp’s “Making the Case” for Blessing Homosexual Unions in the Anglican Church of Canada”

Gagnon has also made a presentation in a debate format to Anglican Bishops in Ireland in June 2014. <http://www.anglican.tv/content/debate-robert-gagnon-and-irish-bishop-homosexuality>.

To invite him to help you develop your supporting materials to complete your mandate is quite appropriately made under the terms of reference [point 5] of the establishment of your Commission. “The Commission may invite submissions from specific individuals or groups on the overall question or on particular points that the Commission is considering, and may appoint advisors to assist it in any aspect of its work“

God’s blessings upon you as you seek to guide the Church to greater submission to His revealed will for His people,

Brian Johnson, Diocese of Toronto.