

**A Submission to the Anglican Church of Canada's  
Commission on the Marriage Canon**

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**Let me begin by thanking the Commissioners for undertaking this consultation. I hope that it will serve as a basis for the discernment of how the Spirit is speaking to the Church.**

**I had the honour of being a delegate to General Synod in Winnipeg and in Halifax on occasions when the Blessing of Same-Sex Unions was discussed. At that time we were engaged in a debate about whether the committed relationship of homosexual persons was even worthy of a blessing! Delegates spoke eloquently on both sides of the issue, but I still remember the sick feeling in the pit of my stomach as I listened to people discredit and belittle my own committed relationship. I listened to members of the clergy whom I knew to be divorced, quoting obscure passages from Leviticus as proof texts against same sex relationships. (I guess they hadn't read as far as the condemnation of divorce by Our Lord as recorded in St. Mark's Gospel.) The scriptural arguments on both sides seemed like hollow justifications for the social views of the speakers.**

**There were also patronizing opinions about Anglicans in general. "We are not ready for this." "The people in [fill in the blank] could never accept this." It would seem that some of us are unable to think, learn or grow. I must assume that there are jurisdictions in the Anglican Communion where opinions and beliefs can never change.**

**Well, I have now been in a committed same-sex relationship for 23 years and will have been legally married in Canada for the past 10 years. I must say that the memory of the discussions at those General Synods now makes me cringe. What a waste of my time and energy to have been emotionally involved in a debate that has become increasingly irrelevant in our society and in our church. It is genuinely refreshing to have joined the majority of Canadians in complete disregard for what the Anglican Church pronounces on this subject. The views and pronouncements of our church have moved into irrelevancy.**

**In 2014, I would advise LGBT people in our church to embrace the attitudes of Canadian society. If grace and good fortune grants you someone with whom you can share your lives, then trot off to City Hall and get married. In 23 years, when someone asks you why you didn't get married in the church, you can laugh and remind them that the church didn't allow same-sex**

**marriage back then. You can then go on to reminisce about how primitive the computers were.**

**I have found it much easier to continue to worship on Sunday and to be part of a Christian community if I simply turn a deaf ear to the arguments of those who would exclude me.**