SUBMISSION RE: SAME SEX MARRIAGE

I do not agree with the proposal to change the Canon on marriage to include the marriage of same sex couples for the following reasons:

1 **It is contrary to the created order**.

Gen 1.27,28 *"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth ......""*

Gen 2.24 *"Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."*

These passages are affirmed by Jesus, in his response to a question regarding divorce.

Math. 19.4-6 *"He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate""*

The above passages indicate that marriage is
between a man and a woman for life;
that they are one,complimenting each other, sharing and caring for each other;
spiritual and having a relationship with God (later broken, Gen. Ch 3);
and with the responsibility to "multiply".

2 **It is contrary to the purpose of our sexuality.**

See Gen 1:28 above. One purpose is procreation.

The other purpose also involves only a husband and a wife and is for their mutual enjoyment within the context of "the two shall become one flesh", as in the following:

1 Cor 7: 2,3 *"But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights and likewise the wife to her husband."*

Any other sexual relationships, such as the following, are called "sexual immorality" within scripture, and are condemned.

Lev 18: 22 *"You shall not lie with a male as with a woman; it is an abomination."*

Romans 1: 26,27 *"...for their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for error."*

3 **It is contrary to scripture.**

2 Timothy 3: 16,17 *"All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work."*

Scripture is the primary way in which God reveals Himself to us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. It informs us of God's love for us (*"For God so loved the world..."*[John 3:16]), of His moral character in His commandments, as well as His many other characteristics, such as His forgiving nature, compassion and mercy. It is in this image that humanity was created, with Jesus being the perfect *"...image of the invisible God..."* (Col.1:15)

No where in Scripture is sexual immorality, including same sex activities, exonerated or condoned. On the contrary, they are condemned, and, without repentance, are a salvation issue, as in:

Rev. 22. 15 *"Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood."*

4 **Conclusion**

Marriage within the Church, Christ's body, is reserved for one man and one woman, reflecting God's creative act in the male/female structure of humanity.

Marriage of same sex couples cannot be supported by scripture, and is contrary to the moral character of God as revealed in scripture.

Whether we like it or not, whether it meets our ideas of love and justice, etc., or not, we must nevertheless conform to His wisdom, as expressed in Isaiah 55: 8,9;

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Michael Weller
St. Mark, Ocean Park
Diocese of New Westminster