

SUBMISSION TO THE COMMISSION ON THE MARRIAGE CANON

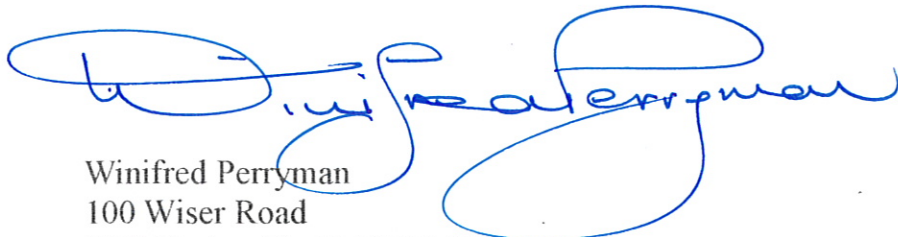
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I am a ninety-three year old great grandmother, a cradle Anglican. As the parent of a gay child I served on the panel on human sexuality at General Synod 1992. I believe with all my heart that the Anglican Church of Canada should accept, affirm and celebrate loving, committed, responsible gay relationships and widen its marriage canon to allow for the marriage of same-sex couples who desire to receive that sacrament.

To me, marriage is a coming together of two people who love each other, a love that is sexual, emotional and deeply spiritual. It is a life-long promise made by those two people to love, cherish and care for each other no matter what life brings. In marriage, the couple recognizes and accepts the responsibility to love, protect and nurture any child who becomes part of their family. Whether the couple are of opposite sex or same sex does not matter. They are all part of God's amazingly diverse creation. Surely in Peter's vision, described in Acts 10 v 9-16, God is saying "All of my creation is wholesome, holy."

As regards biblical references to homosexuality, scripture needs to be interpreted in the light of current knowledge and biblical criticism. As former primate Archbishop Ted Scott said, "You have to reflect on new knowledge and express views about that rather than claim views that are absolute."

Some see this as a moral issue, some a theological issue, others a doctrinal issue. I see it as a justice issue. The God whom we worship demands that we "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly before God." We are not acting justly when we deny the sacrament of marriage to any same-sex couple who wish to make the same life-long commitment to each other with the same promises as are required of opposite sex couples. Hopefully, if we act in love and justice and humbly accept the call to change, we may this time act in accordance with God's will.



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