

I write in support of a change to the marriage Canon so that it includes all people who experience love and make the choice to enter into a lifetime commitment in the same. I understand that “God is love and those who live in love live in God and God lives in them” to mean that our deepest experience of love is an experience of God and a doorway or sacrament of God at work in the world God loves.

The study of scripture in this matter is controversial but the fruit of the practice of the church can be seen and heard as we witness the pain, discrimination, exclusion, and oppression experienced by so many LGBTQ people of faith who struggle to remain in our churches and whose stories tell of the failure of the church to love, accept, and embrace the children of God, especially those who are oppressed. It is clear then to me, that our interpretation of scripture has been wrong.

There is nothing in the classic definition of marriage that does not apply to same-sex couples- they are often parents, they are as committed, loving, and supportive as straight couples, prone to the same failings and challenges but in their commitment of love often have to be stronger and more resilient than many straight couples because of the discrimination they may experience in places where others find friendship and support, from the work place, to our churches.

Children and young people growing up in our society are now used to being among gay and lesbian and bisexual friends or friends with same-sex parents. They know from experience that their friends are as unique and loving as any other child. They know clearly that discrimination is wrong and seeing clearly that institutions such as the church discriminate against their friends, know us to be part of the problem in our world. They are walking away.

In the Churches where I have worked, when we have educated ourselves, repented of our mistakes and declared our inclusion and love for our LGBTQ neighbours we have been in turn embraced by our community.

It is time to change the marriage canon and become the community of faith reflecting the image of God in all people and all loving relationships that we were called to be.

Respectfully submitted.

Rev. Mike Deed
Rector, Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton, ON