

## SUBMISSION TO COMMISSION ON THE MARRIAGE CANON

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

My introduction to the Anglican Church came with marriage preparation, and the marriage of my wife and I in 1983. Since that time, we have been regular participants not only in worship, but other parts of parish life, including a wide variety of tasks – ACW, Altar Guild, Vestry, Outreach, Finance, Nursery, Sunday School, etc. I was a Warden for two years in the late 1980's and again for three years ending in 2013.

My submission is simple. Everything I have ever read or heard about Jesus centers around his call for love, justice, mercy and inclusion. As a former Roman Catholic who left that church in part because of its stand on the ordination of women and treatment of LGBT persons, I have long been concerned and not a little embarrassed that my church of choice, the Anglican Church of Canada, has continued to discriminate against the same LGBT groups. One of the ways this discrimination is evidenced is through the inability of same sex individuals to be married in the same way that opposite sex couples can be.

To be candid, I call upon the Commission and General Synod to set aside prejudices, personal views, dogma and warring Bible verses and simply give full recognition to the equality of same sex persons wishing to be married with those opposite sex couples who seek the same thing. I do so in reflection of the love, justice, mercy and inclusion that comprised the life story and mission of Jesus. I have to say that to continue to do otherwise would be shameful, and hypocritical.

Naturally, I would be happy to discuss any of this if that would be helpful.

Thanks again.

Patrick Cashion