

Commission on the Marriage Canon:

Thank you for inviting public comment on several of the theological issues informing the Anglican Church of Canada's Canon XXI: On Marriage in the Church. The Commission posed some very thoughtful theological questions to shape the consultation, and these have inspired many interesting responses from across our Church. These voices now join thousands of others, including my own, in our decades-long discussion about whether gay and lesbian people should or should not be fully included in the life, ministry, and sacraments of our Church. I commend you now to the work of preparing an inclusive Canon as requested by General Synod for the Church's consideration.

On reviewing the recent submissions, however, I see the debate about the biblical morality of homosexuality itself still rages for some. That particular issue may be resolved for most Anglicans and off-topic for the Commission's present work, but I appreciate it remains an unsettled concern for some in our Church. Those who wish to engage a discussion about the traditional interpretation of the Bible and same-sex relations may find my essay, Challenging Conventional Wisdom, on the Integrity Canada website:

http://integritycanada.org/publications/Challenging_Conventional_Wisdom-Schuh.pdf

Thank you, Commission members, and may God bless your work over the coming months.

Grace and peace,

Steve Schuh

St. John's (Shaughnessy) Anglican Church, Vancouver

Order of the Diocese of New Westminster

Member of General Synod 2004 and 2007