

September 6, 2014

Commission on the Marriage Canon  
Anglican Church of Canada  
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Dear Commission Members:

Same sex marriages or blessings should not be performed or supported by the church.

We cannot be influenced by the world or the latest "trend" in popular belief. Scripture is clear on sexual behaviour and marriage. What the secular adopts as "customary" cannot alter God's Word and Truth, which we profess to believe.

#### What Scripture says about Marriage

It is not really necessary to interpret the scripture in this matter. How could one misinterpret the clear meaning of Leviticus 18:22, where the Lord tells us what are unacceptable expressions of the gift of our sexuality? "Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable" (NIV).

In Matthew 19:4-6 Jesus tells us, "'Haven't you read,'" He replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' (Gen. 1:27) and said 'For this reason a man will leave his father and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? (Gen. 2:24) "So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together let no one separate.'" (NIV) God's definition of marriage includes gender difference; that is male and female.

#### Civil Marriage and Christian Marriage

Civil marriage is a legal (worldly) contract between two people, not to say that it can't include God, but a Christian Marriage includes God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit and should bring Glory and Praise to the Lord for the gifts that marriage brings. It also has to be within the bounds of God's Word.

## The Marriage Canon

The Canon is not Scripture. It certainly has to be based on Scripture with the counsel of the Holy Spirit.

*Companionship* is a part of Marriage but also in all of our relationships. In Marriage it is an expression of being of one flesh and of sexual faithfulness.

*Bearing and raising children* is what God told us to do in Gen. 1:28, "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it.'" Bearing and raising children flows from the covenant of marriage.

*Marriage* sanctifies our expression of *Sexuality*. It provides a covenant of safety for the expression of sexuality as it ebbs and flows with the experience of our life together. It is how we become one flesh. Sexuality is a gift from God that shared in marriage glorifies God. Within the covenant of marriage and in congruence with the Word of God we praise and glorify God for his gifts.

*In comparing Marriage with blessing a relationship* it is clear that any Godly relationship can be blessed as Paul aptly demonstrated. Friends, parents and children, work mates, business partners, priest and parishioner, male friends, female friends, male and female friends. The Lord blesses all relationships that honour His Word and bring Godly fruits. However, whether the world condones it or not, same gender relationships that include as part of their very substance sinful practises cannot be blessed or called marriage in the church. The blessing condones a "behaviour" that is clearly contrary to God's Word and grievous to Him.

In my heart, everyone is welcomed by Christ's Love. We are all sinners and not worthy, but Christ took care of that for us forever. Blessing relationships that include unnatural and forbidden sexual behaviour destroys the Body of Christ and cuts us off from God and our Lord Jesus. Welcome the sinner and forgive him or her, as God forgives us but do not weaken the fabric of the body of Christ by accepting "modern" opinion and political ideology.

Respectfully Submitted,

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