

Understanding “THIS HOLY ESTATE”

A Starting Point for Parish Conversations



Diocesan Consultation Days

Agenda

7:00pm Welcome and Opening Prayer

Overview of the Process and Expectations

Bishop

"This Holy Estate" Background and Process

Bishop

7:25pm Biblical Rationale of "This Holy Estate"

Bill Morrow

- Authority of Scripture
- Marriage and Creation Accounts
- Marriage in the New Testament
- Romans I and Natural Law
- Differentiated forms of Christian Marriage Covenant

8:40pm Outstanding Questions

Bishop and
Steering Comm

9:00pm Closing Prayer



DIOCESE OF ONTARIO NORMS

1. We will grant that as people of faith we are all sincere in our beliefs, including our reverence for Holy Scripture.
 2. We will know that there might be lesbian and gay persons present.
 3. We will value inclusion and strive for greater understanding of each other.
 4. We will speak in the first person.
 5. We will not use language known to be offensive to others.
 6. We will respect the right of people to speak of their own experiences.
 7. We will respect the privacy of others.
 8. We will ask no questions that we are not prepared to answer ourselves.
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A large, stylized teal brushstroke graphic that serves as a background for the title text.

Same-Sex Unions

– A Brief Survey
of the Conversations



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada



RESOLUTION C003 – GS2013

Be it resolved that this General Synod

- direct the Council of General Synod to prepare and present a motion at General Synod 2016 to change Canon XXI on Marriage to allow the marriage of same sex couples in the same way as opposite sex couples, and that this motion should include a conscience clause so that no member of the clergy, bishop, congregation or diocese should be constrained to participate in or authorize such marriages against the dictates of their conscience.
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RESOLUTION C003 – GS2013

This motion will also include supporting documentation that:

- a) demonstrates broad consultation in its preparation;
- b) explains how this motion does not contravene the
Solemn Declaration;



RESOLUTION C003 – GS2013

- c) confirms immunity under civil law and the Human Rights Code for those bishops, dioceses and priests who refuse to participate in or authorize the marriage of same-sex couples on the basis of conscience; and
- d) provides a biblical and theological rationale for this change in teaching on the nature of Christian marriage.



Overview of the Report

Dedication

Section 1: Introduction

– Background & Terms of Reference

Section 2: Consultation

Section 3: Solemn Declaration



Overview of the Report

Section 4: Conscience Clause

Section 5: Biblical & Theological Rationale

Section 6: Conclusion

Appendix: Solemn Declaration, Draft Motion



Overview of the Report

Other work

- Annotated Bibliography - posted on online
- Summary & Study Guide (separate documents)



1. Background and Terms of Reference



1. Background and Terms of Reference

“The Commission will consider and prepare documentation about the following matters specified in General Synod Resolution C003:

- a) the Solemn Declaration in relation to this matter;
- b) the immunity under the civil law and the Human Rights Codes of the various provinces and Territories within Canada of those bishops, dioceses and priests who refuse to participate in or authorize the marriage of same-sex couples on the basis of conscience; and
- c) a biblical and theological rationale for this change in teaching on the nature of Christian marriage”



1. Background and Terms of Reference

“And this Report will include:

a recommended wording of the enabling Motion called for in General Synod Resolution C003; and

a recommended wording of the conscience clause called for in General Synod Resolution C003.”



2.Consultation



2.Consultation

‘Broad consultation’ demonstrated through

- submissions from ACC members (223 / 26 dioceses)
- consultation with ecumenical partners (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; United Church of Canada; Anglican Roman Catholic Dialogue in Canada)
- consultation with Anglican Communion (Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity, Faith and Order)
- consultation with Anglican indigenous bishops



3.Solemn Declaration



3.Solemn Declaration

Declaration of Principles

- General Synod has jurisdiction “in the definition of the doctrines of the Church *in harmony with the Solemn Declaration* adopted by this synod.”



3.Solemn Declaration

What constitutes ‘harmony’ with Solemn Declaration?

- “... to hold the Doctrine, Sacraments and discipline of Christ... as the Church of England has received and set forth in the Book of Common Prayer...”
- past changes in discipline and practice
- ‘harmony’ is defined by General Synod



4. Conscience Clause



4. Conscience Clause

The legal opinion:

“[There is] significant risk that the Proposed Resolution will be subject to a challenge

“However, the Church will have strong defense against such challenges and, in our view,



4. Conscience Clause

The legal opinion cont'd:

“it is highly unlikely that these challenges would be successful in light of the prevailing jurisprudence and the very clear statements by the Supreme Court of Canada in the same-sex Reference which states ‘nothing in the Act affects the freedom of officials of religious groups to refuse to perform marriages that are not in accordance with their religious beliefs.’ ”



4. Conscience Clause

The draft motion:

Section 3(a) : a clause permitting congregations, dioceses and bishops to opt out of the performance of marriage of same-sex couples.

Section 3(b) : option for ministers to decline for reasons of conscience



5. Biblical and theological rationale



5. Biblical and theological rationale

The task:

The Commission will consider and prepare documentation about... *a biblical and theological rationale for this change in teaching on the nature of Christian marriage.*



Appendix

Text of the Solemn Declaration

Draft Motion – as the Commission was requested
to provide



Additional material

SUMMARY

*A summary in the form of Question & Answer
– linked to each section of the Report.*

STUDY QUESTIONS

*Potential study questions for individuals & groups seeking to
explore the report.*



WEBSITE REFERENCE

FIND FULL REPORT, ALL SUBMISSIONS & BIBLIOGRAPHY AT:

<http://www.anglican.ca/about/ccc/cogs/cmc/submissions/>

OR

www.anglican.ca

Then Search: The Commission on the Marriage Canon



RESOLUTION A051-R2 passed at
General Synod 2016 on First Reading

RESOLUTION A051-R2

Resolved that:

1. Declare that Canon XX1 (On Marriage in the Church) applies to all persons who are duly qualified by civil law to enter into marriage.
2. Make the following consequential amendments be made to Canon XXI:
 - (a) in paragraph 2 of the Preface, delete the words “of the union of man and woman in”;
 - (b) in paragraph 4 of the Preface, substitute the words “the parties to the marriage” for the “husband and wife”;



RESOLUTION A051-R2

(c) in section 16 a) of the Regulations, substitute “the parties to the marriage” for “a man and a woman”;

(d) in section 17 b) of the Regulations, substitute “the partners” for “husband and wife”.



RESOLUTION A051-R2

3. Add the following to section 11 of the Regulations

e) A minister may only solemnize a marriage between persons of the same sex if authorized by the diocesan bishop.

4. Declare that this resolution shall come into effect on the first day of January after being passed by General Synod at Second Reading.



*Almighty and everliving God,
source of all wisdom and understanding,
be present with those who take counsel
for the renewal and mission of your church.
Teach us in all things to seek first your honour and glory.
Guide us to perceive what is right,
and grant us both the courage to pursue it
and the grace to accomplish it,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

