

Dear Sir,

Much earlier this month a friend on Facebook posted a comment on “eNews is an invitation to send personal submissions to the Canon 21 committee (on the proposed change to the Marriage Canon which would allow all legally-qualified persons to be married in the Church). There are currently submissions from only one side of the conversation—that opposed to changing the canon—so perhaps those of you who support the change would consider submitting something so it's not a one-sided debate.”

At the time I was unsure how to respond.

‘I support the Canon but I don’t know what to say. I believe in equality, in fairness in the right of people who love each other to be married and to be married in their church, I don't believe it violates Gods laws ...or mans...nor will it destroy traditional marriage but rather enforce the practice. But they want more than that don't they..?’

Another friend replied “put into a paragraph and send it.”

This is probably more than a paragraph but here it is.

LGBT people can participate in our congregations as members, communicants, can sit on committees, serve on councils, wardens, can be priested, can be elected bishops. But we won’t marry them? That is enough. Do we ask people entering our doors about their sexuality? Not likely.

I read my bible nightly. I can’t quote chapter and verse but don't recall God saying no to those who love each other. There are men’s rules/Pauline doctrine etc...but...nothing really from the One who counts.

Marriage will not be diminished by the LGBT community being married in our churches. Marriage or any other rite in the church reinforces the presence of belief in our communities.

One of my sons is gay. He came out in final year university. It was a painful journey for him. Ostracized by his friends, lonely. Now, he is an active member of his community, an organizer of the Pride Festival in Toronto. He is the only one of our sons who chose to be confirmed in the church. But we would deny him marriage. That is wrong. One of my other sons was going to be married in the church but his bride (an active participating member) refused. “If (my other son) can’t be married there neither will I”. Simple justice.

More than a paragraph, I see this issue as one of *equality and fairness, of social justice.*

Not that many years ago a divorced person could not be married in the church. Times change, attitudes change and sometimes what people believe to be “traditional forms” and relationships change as well.

I support the Canon.

Linda Morgan