

Christ Church Gananoque, Canon 21

A congregational 'conversation' on Canon 21 was hosted on June 13 at 7pm with 8 parishioners in attendance. (A half an hour before the scheduled meeting we experienced a terrible thunder storm- which resulted in a number of people deciding not to venture out. I have been requested to consider scheduling a second event and possibly a follow up Bible study. Rockport Redeemer will be hosting their discussion on August 7 to make it possible for summer parishioners from the Episcopal Church to participate. )

The overwhelming sentiment expressed was that this issue has preoccupied the church for too long. The majority are in favour of the Canon change, on the basis that it is already civil law, that the 2013 resolution has already declared the sanctity of same sex relationships and that on the basis of such an assertion, same sex couples should freely participate in all of the sacraments of the church. Great sensitivity and concern was expressed for families in the church with children in same sex unions.

Questions were asked about the relationship of priest to congregation on this matter; 'What if a priest refuses to do same sex weddings but the congregation is strongly in favour of same sex unions?'

The Ecumenical implications of the proposed Canon change seem both distant and largely irrelevant to the congregation and they are looking forward to the fact that this will be presented and discussed at Synod.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara