



SUMMARIZING NOTES FROM QUESTIONS AT THE CLERGY DAY 22/02/2018

47 participants

QUESTION 1: What is your personal hope for this motion and about our consideration of this motion? What is your fear? (This could be about the outcome or how we get there)

HOPE

- That the individuality of each person will be respected +3
- That we have enough time; that the spirit is present + 1
- That all sides are listened to & respected + 2
- Defeat because of divisiveness / not biblical + 3
- It will be passed + 9 ; Quit wasting time – get on with it +2
- Questions will be addressed to congregations
- Opposed to the change in definition of marriage +2; It fails + 3
- Find a way to live together across the wider church + 1; this is a blessed process

FEAR

- That the process will take too long; get on with it; it's destroying us + 7
- That we will not take enough time – this issue a 'church breaker' – not ready for this change + 1
- That all sides will not be listened to + 4; further divisiveness + 1
- That we are not addressing secularity well; behind society; diocese too slow to engage; offer something better
- Concern that it has not been address enough scripturally + 1
- Discussion will interfere with the mission of the church + 5
- Divisions in the church will get worse + 2 – separation from Anglican sisters & brothers + 3
- No matter what decisions, people will leave + 2; schism of winners & losers + 1
- Questions will not be addressed to congregations + 1
- For the youth; church not a safe place for those of same sex attraction – see same sex marriage as a given
- If passed, Anglican Church will be more like a religious political party than the Church of God
- Marginalization + 2; no room in church for conservative viewpoint
- The real commitment for marriage is being lost – changing foundation
- Diluting marriage to what society wants

Sitting on the fence – indecision – what do we mean by marriage – what is the commitment.

QUESTION 2: Whatever the outcome of the vote at General Synod 2019 some people will be disappointed or upset. What will be the cost to you (or your community) if this is you?

- Conversation has gone on too long – sad we cannot welcome all + 1
- Need to go deeper into relationship between church and culture
- Need to live by Gospel imperative, love, be respectful + 1
- How do we understand human sexuality, further discussion will arise, where to draw the line, are we not all God's children?
- No theological reasons for either side – need breadth of scripture approach + 1 – theological divide
- Why is this a litmus test to our faith?
- If defeated, a disappointment and embarrassment to the church + 3; but will still offer comfort to LGBT

- **Cost to parish** - lose some; gain some + 2 ; cost either way + 6
 - May find it hard to engage in mission with the rest of the diocese
 - Either way there will be healing required + 2 – conflicts need to be addressed +4
 - Confusion; does scripture still have authority in ACC; is there still a place for traditionally-minded Anglicans; will we still have credibility among other Christian communities + 2; dismay at our impaired relationship with global Anglicans + 1
 - We have more important issues to deal with + 3
 - Upset about winners & losers as we love our neighbour + 3
 - Regardless of decision those of different lifestyles will continue to be loved and valued + 2 – how? + 2
 - Require follow-up, connection with gay couples seeking blessing & marriage
 - Are we standing with culture or against it?

- **Personal cost** - church family may split / divide / fear + 5
 - Lose part of their career; will not be part of the church if passed
 - Conflict and divisions + 1
 - Grieving + 2 – wrong decision-making process
 - May have to work in a situation not agreed with + 3
 - Hope that conscientious objection allowed + 1; fear being sued for convictions
 - Cost is huge in relationship with God regardless of decision and feel unloved by God
 - Direct impact on vocation for ordination; a feeling God ordained me
 - Waiting until after GS 2019 & Dio 2020 & Bp's discretion
 - If not passed . . . I won't be upset + 2 / Jesus has final judgement
 - Fear we are becoming more Congregationalist + 2
 - Concern for the evangelical aspect of the ACC
 - Understanding the vocation and church I was called to + 1

QUESTION 3: Whatever the outcome of the vote at GS 2019, what do I feel we need to talk about or do to ensure we can walk together after the vote?

- Don't divide more + 3 – support one another + 3 – unity rather than uniformity + 6
- Be respectful + 1– desire integrity - continue dialogue in loving manner + 15 – walk together + 4 – is it valuable not to work together?
- Who are we as Anglicans and what do we offer? + 1 Are we really walking together? How?
- Naivety about capacity to talk to one another + 1 – issues of safety, trust & respect + 1
- Need to talk about the reality of conflicting views of scripture & how influence our lives + 3
- Be a model to the wider church; challenge liberal & conservative thought – be open – be patient – sharing at all ages – why walk away?
- Bring it back to mission reflected on a history of a full spectrum of polity, liberal & conservative + 2
- A mean-spiritedness in some clergy gatherings + 1 ; lack of dialogue not helpful + 4
- Example of Episcopal Church 'to be rooted in scripture, allowing for interpretation' + 2
- What about those who are now excluded by the Marriage Canon? Hearing abomination . . . less than a beloved child of God?
- Decisions rarely include a way forward; get out of the marriage business + 3
- Embrace the fact that as people of faith we can get married in a church
- Be allowed to leave with grace and dignity
- Much needs to be done at the diocesan level; easier to talk to other denominations than to talk to each other

QUESTION 4: The resolution A051, as amended, does not include a conscience clause. Would you like to include a motion at Diocesan Synod 2020?

- ❖ Need mutuality in conscience clause + 2 – more explanation + 4
- ❖ Need affirmation that those opposed to changes still are part of the Anglican Church
- ❖ Took oaths not to agree but to trust – bishops an important part of what we are as church + 2
- ❖ Uneasy with possible dissenting opinions with each new bishop
- ❖ OK with Canon 21 as regards to conscience + 16; what about future legal practice?
- ❖ Liturgy requires clarity – also clarity between parish and clergy to avoid conflict + 3
- ❖ Need to address safety and protection + 8
- ❖ Need some way of maintaining traditional values + 1
- ❖ Confusion on clarity + 3; structure and wording important
- ❖ Vows of obedience precludes opting in and raises matter of alternative episcopal oversight
- ❖ Clear statement of belief mitigates law of the land and human rights and, answers question about who stands in support of personal belief + 1
- ❖ Conscience clause – is there a better word for it?
- ❖ In Canons, word conscience only applies to divorced people; clause is unhelpful & misleading +1
- ❖ Want conversation to be open and continue to meet regularly + 5
- ❖ How do clergy with differing views work together in one venue?