

After much personal struggling with this issue (being sensitive to the exclusion from marrying within the Anglican Church, that has been the experience of those in same sex relationships), this thought came to me while I was reading the Scriptures. In the Bible, as you know, a person's name seems to be of great value. Too bad that the amendments referring to the parties (as is suggested in the changes to Canon 21), each person desiring to be married couldn't be requested to say his or her full name (in the case of a person who is mute, they could sign their name, either by writing it or by using sign language) wherever the word parties appears. This, to me, would make the whole marriage ceremony more personal and would put the onus on the individual, no matter what their sexual preference might be, to acknowledge their commitment to their marriage vows. This procedure also, would (for those who view the church in this way), take away the view of the Church as exerting a patriarchal control over individuals.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my view on this important matter.

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