

## **Marriage Canon Task Force**

### **Summary of Feedback from Synod 2017 from small groups and written submissions**

#### **How does the motion to change the Marriage Canon challenge or encourage you?**

##### Encouraged by:

- Having this discussion, respectful dialogue with differences
- Emphasis on God's love, that we are called to love and not be judgemental, and on inclusivity

##### Challenged by:

- How long it taking to make changes
- Proposed changes and understanding of scripture; called to love and respect but there are boundaries
- The level of discourse, theological and biblical understanding

#### **Suggestions for Diocese of Huron Process of Considering the Marriage Canon**

##### **Provide resources, both electronic and paper handouts**

- Copy of the Bishop's slides from Synod presentation – posted on Diocesan Website
- Group norms for small groups used at Synod – posted on Diocesan Website
- Copy of current marriage canon and proposed changes (in process)
- Summary of feedback from Synod 2017 – posted on Diocesan Website
- Simple, one-page summary of history and timeline of process and motion –posted on Diocesan Website
- Simple, concise theological and biblical teachings and rationale on marriage and the proposed changes to the marriage canon – in process of being developed
- Video resource – in process of being developed

**Offer facilitated, face-to-face, regional gatherings for conversation and active listening (not debate)** – in process of being planned for fall 2017. These gatherings will be separate from Deanery Council, open to all members of parishes, and incorporate group norms used at Synod 2017. Additional suggestions from Synod 2017 members are being considered as plans are made for gatherings.

## Requests for information and clarification

About the current Marriage Canon and Marriage Blessings

- e.g., What is the Diocesan approach to clergy already living in same sex relationships?

About the proposed changes to the Marriage Canon

- Conscience clause, for example: Is it enough to protect those who disagree with the changes if they are passed? To what extent will the Bishop defend objecting clergy from litigation on the grounds of discrimination?
- “Parties to the marriage”: What is the legal definition of “parties”? Does this include transgender people?

About the Anglican Church of Canada process

- Are LGBTQ2, youth member, and indigenous voices being heard?
- Why are all Dioceses deciding on their own?
- Why are we having these discussions if Bishop can veto?

About the Diocese of Huron process pre-General Synod 2019

- Do we vote on the Marriage Canon as a Diocesan Synod? No, we will not be voting on the Marriage Canon in the Diocese of Huron.
- Who has final say in our Diocese?
- What is the form of the report from the Deaneries to the Huron Synod and from the Huron Synod to General Synod?

About what happens after General Synod 2019

- If General Synod votes no:
  - Will Huron go ahead anyway?
- If General Synod votes yes:
  - Practicalities of implementation: How will liturgy be affected? What will be the timeline for new liturgies? Will conscience clause be enough for clergy who object?
  - Why does the Bishop need to grant permission?
  - What will be the impact on the worldwide Anglican Communion?
- Regardless of the vote:
  - What happens if a Diocesan Bishop disagrees with the vote?
  - What will happen in parishes that have already taken a strong stance one way or another?
  - Are clergy obliged to follow majority will of the parish?

About resources for parish priests

- Pastoral resources knowing there is, and will be, hurt and division in parishes
- Parish priests want clear, concise direction