




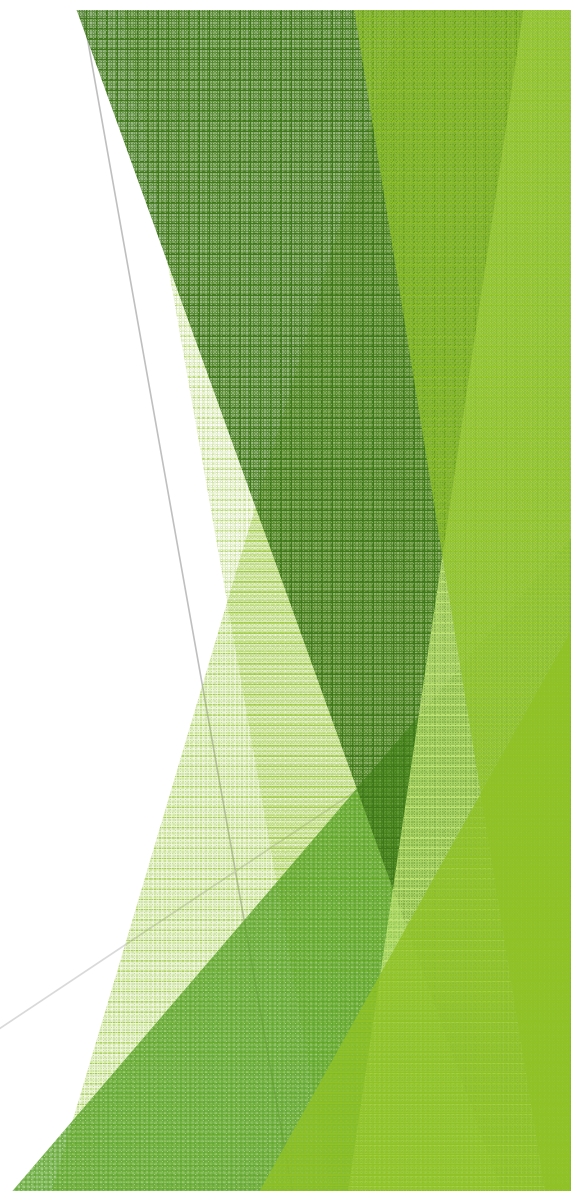
Marriage Canon

Background & History

GENERAL SYNOD DELIBERATIONS


- ▶ 2004 Motion passed declaring 'integrity and sanctity of same-sex committed relationships
- ▶ 2010 Wide discussion of blessing of same-sex relationships - no motions
 - ▶ Recognition of differences across the country - within and between dioceses
 - ▶ Some permissions for blessing of same-sex partnerships already authorized

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- ▶ 2013 Motion from two lay delegates asking GS to consider changing marriage canon to include 'all duly qualified persons under the law' - which would include same-sex partners
 - ▶ Motion passed with amendments that include request for work to be done including exploration of a conscience clause; biblical rationale for same-sex marriage;
 - ▶ Resulted in formation of Marriage Canon Task Group
 - ▶ Produced: -*This Holy Estate* - for General Synod 2016

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- ▶ 2016 General Synod considered a revision of the Marriage Canon as requested.
 - ▶ Changes 'the parties of the marriage'
 - ▶ e) A minister may only solemnize a marriage between persons of the same sex if authorized by the diocesan bishop.

MARRIAGE CANON REVISION

- ▶ Would open marriage to all duly qualified persons under the law
- ▶ Continues to include conscience clause for clergy
- ▶ Decision to allow same-sex marriages is at the call of the bishop
 - ▶ If Bishop says 'no' - then no parish or clergy may participate/hold
 - ▶ If Bishop says 'yes' - can set the guidelines for participation

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- ▶ Motion requires TWO successive General Synod votes to pass amendment - must come for second vote in 2019 in Vancouver.
 - ▶ **Both times:** must have 2/3's majority in all 3 houses: laity, clergy and Bishops separately
 - ▶ **IF passed in 2019** - then Bishops will have until January 2020 to declare their participation or not - goes into effect January 2020
 - ▶ **IF rejected in 2019** - there is nothing further currently before General Synod to make changes.
 - ▶ **BEFORE 2019:** every diocese and Provincial Synod must 'consider' the motion and report to General Synod 2019

Diocese of Huron

- ▶ 2009 Episcopal permission given for prayers for a civilly married same-sex couple in context of eucharist
- ▶ 2013 Episcopal permission given for blessing of same-sex civilly married same-sex couples.

HURON COMMITMENTS

- ▶ May 2017 - Pastoral Letter affirming that Huron will not make any further changes at this time
- ▶ Committed to the process underway of 'consideration'

'CONSIDERATION'

- ▶ Committee of
 - ▶ Marilyn Malton
 - ▶ Stephen McClatchie
 - ▶ Greg Jenkins
- ▶ Prepared process: Synod 2017; Deanery consultations; Synod 2018

'INDABA' CONVERSATION

- ▶ INDABA - conversations of deep listening to one another
- ▶ Invitation to Diocese of Brandon to share in conversations
 - ▶ Huron Synod May 2017
 - ▶ Brandon Synod October 2017