

A052-R2

Motion for Second Reading of Amendment to Canon XXI
(On Marriage in the Church) from GS 2016 A051-R2

Be it resolved that this General Synod:

Give Second Reading to GS 2016 Resolution A051-R2, which reads as follows:

1. Declare that Canon XXI (On Marriage in the Church) applies to all persons who are duly qualified by civil law to enter into marriage.

2. Add the following at the end of the Preface to Canon XXI:

9. Faithful members of the Anglican Church of Canada have different understandings and teachings about the nature of marriage. Some accept that the essence of marriage is between a man and a woman; others accept same sex marriage. Members are entitled to hold, teach and exercise either view provided they recognize and respect that others may with integrity hold, teach and exercise a different view. All Anglicans accept that marriage is a sign of God's redeeming purpose to unite all things in Christ. We are committed to graceful walking together in a spirit of generosity as part of the same Christian community.

10. General Synod recognizes that Indigenous communities have particular understandings about the nature of marriage as well as their own ways of making decisions—both of which are protected in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples—and will continue to discern whether same sex marriage would be acceptable in their communities.

3. Make the following consequential amendments to Canon XXI:
 - a) in paragraph 2 of the Preface, delete the words “of the union of man and woman in”;
 - b) in paragraph 4 of the Preface, substitute the words “the parties to the marriage” for the “husband and wife”;

- c) in section 16 a) of the Regulations, substitute “the parties to the marriage” for “a man and a woman”;
- d) in section 17 b) of the Regulations, substitute “the parties to the marriage” for “husband and wife”.

4. Add the following to section 11 of the Regulations

e) A minister may only solemnize a marriage between persons of the same sex if authorized by the diocesan bishop.

5. Declare that this resolution shall come into effect on the first day of January after being passed by General Synod at Second Reading.