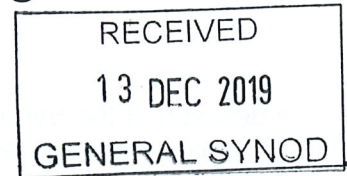


Submission to the Appellate Tribunal Regarding The Blessing of Same Sex Marriages.

December 11th, 2019



The Registrar,
Appellate Tribunal
General Synod Office
Anglican Church of Australia
189 Kent Street,
Sydney NSW 2000.

appellatetribunal@anglican.org.au

Dear Registrar,

We appreciate the opportunity to make a submission with regard to the Primate's referral to the Appellate Tribunal concerning the recent decision of the Synod of the Diocese of Wangaratta to allow the Blessing of Persons Married According to the Marriage Act 1961 Regulations 2019.

We submit that the answers to both of the Primate's questions of 21/10/2019 concerning "the Blessing of Persons Married According to the Marriage Act 1961 Regulations 2019", must be a resounding - NO ! To respond in any other way would be "contrary to and a departure from the doctrine of the Anglican Church of Australia". (Canon 19,1988, S(3))

The Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia essentially declares that:

- the faith of the Anglican Church of Australia is set forth in the Nicene Creed and in the Apostles' Creed;
- the canonical Scriptures of the Church is the ultimate rule and standard of our faith given by the inspiration of God;
- the Church will always obey the commands of Christ and faithfully follow his teachings; and
- the Church approves the doctrine and principles embodied in the Book of Common Prayer (Ruling Principles (RP) Chapter 2). In any revision, all statements, forms and rules must be consistent with the Fundamental Declarations contained herein.

It is our belief that God's redeemed people, and therefore God's Church, are called on by God to live distinctively different lives to the world that they are a part of. God's people are called on to promote and teach and be a living example of God's standards for holy living. Therefore, it is totally inappropriate for God's church to be eager to bless anything that God has declared to be ungodly, or immoral, or worldly, and, in this case, to be unnatural sexual relations (Romans 1). We note that In Romans chapter 1, it is not God's blessing that is being poured out on such behaviour, but his wrath.

Therefore, we believe that the Blessing of Persons Married According to the Marriage Act 1961, Regulations 2019 as approved by the Synod of the Diocese of Wangaratta is completely repugnant to and a serious departure from both Holy Scripture and the Fundamental Declarations and Ruling Principles in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia.

The decision of the Synod of the Diocese of Wangaratta is an attempt to bless what is forbidden in Holy Scripture (Fundamental Declarations 1,2 & 3), and is a serious departure from the teaching of the Book of Common Prayer (Ruling Principal [1.4]).

From the fundamental declaration of The Form of Solemnisation of Matrimony within the Book of Common Prayer our Church affirms that ;

- Marriage is between a man and a woman;
- Such a marriage has a divine origin - "an "honourable state, instituted of God";
- One of the primary purposes of marriage is for "the procreation" and "nurture" of children", ... "for the praise of his holy Name";
- Marriage proclaims a Christian reality – it signifies the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church; and
- Those who are joined together other than God's Word allows, are not lawfully married before God.

(All of which is soundly grounded in the teaching of Holy Scripture)

The Church and its ministers have no divine right or authority to declare God's blessing on what God has not "instituted" or blessed.

Our Anglican formularies declare that the adoption of such a resolution as that of the Diocese of Wangaratta is contrary to the Word of God, the Law of God, our Church heritage and tradition, and the gospel of salvation.

The Anglican Church of Australia must be swift to denounce any Synod that moves to adopt such a regulation as being in breach of its constitutional responsibilities.

We believe this issue is so crucial for our church, that it has the potential to seriously undermine the Anglican Church within Australia and therefore, we would urge members of the Appellate Tribunal to consider this matter prayerfully, and with great pastoral care and wisdom.

Let's make sure that we continue to stand firm in the faith, and live in a way that is worthy of our calling, and that will bring glory and honour to God, our heavenly Father.

Yours sincerely in the service of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ,

Dr. Kay Keng Khoo,
And also on behalf of
Rev Trevor Goodman-Jones,
Mrs. Glynis Goodman-Jones,
Rev Jacob Ng,
Mrs. Sabine Ng,
Dr. Peter Yen
West Perth group of Anglicans