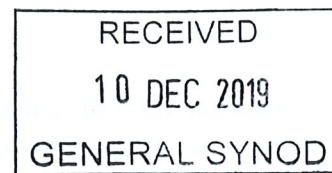


Anglican Church of Australia
Appellate Tribunal



7

10 December 2019

Anne Hywood

Registrar of Appellate Tribunal

appellatetribunal@anglican.org.au

RE: Submission in Response to *Blessing of Persons Married According to the Marriage Act 1961 Regulations 2019 passed by the Synod of the Diocese of Wangaratta.*

Question 1

Whether the use of the form of service at Appendix A to the Blessing of Persons Married According to the Marriage Act 1961 Regulations 2019 made by the Synod of the Diocese of Wangaratta to bless a civil marriage which involved a union other than between one man and one woman, is consistent with the doctrine of this Church and consistent with the Fundamental Declarations and Ruling Principles in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia.

The actions taken by the Synod of the Diocese of Wangaratta are in error of biblical teaching and of the constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia. By the act of blessing a same sex marriage they are condoning an act that is;

- 1: Contrary to the fundamental teaching of the Anglican Church of Australia in that the blessing and condoning of a same sex marriage disregards the reverence and purpose of the Solemnization of Matrimony Ceremony contained in the Book of Common Prayer.
- 2: Contrary to the Fundamental Declaration of The Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia Part 1, Chapter 1- Fundamental Declarations, Item 2
This Church receives all the canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as being the ultimate rule and standard of faith given by the inspiration of God and containing all things necessary for salvation.
- 3: Contrary to the Fundamental Declaration of The Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia Part 1, Chapter 1- Fundamental Declarations, Item 3
"This Church will ever obey the commands of Christ's, teach his doctrine, administer His sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, follow and uphold His discipline and preserve the three orders of bishops, priests and deacons in the sacred ministry.
- 4: Contrary to scriptural teaching of Genesis 1-2 of marriage between a man and a woman and confirmed by Christ in Mathew 19.
Refer also to General Synod year 2017 motion moved by The Very Rev'd Kanishka Raffel

noting in item B) “a man shall leave his father and mother and be united with his wife, and the two will become one flesh [Matt 19:6])

5: Contrary to Matrimony (Prohibited Relationships) Canon 1981
Prohibited relationship as defined in the Book Leviticus

6: Contrary to Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia – Chapter 2 RULING PRINCIPLES
The proposal to bless same sex marriages is in conflict with Chapter 2 RULING PRINCIPLES ie; “the above named Book of Common Prayer, together with the Thirty Nine Articles, be regarded as the authorise standard of worship and doctrine in this Church, and no alteration in or permitted variations from the services or Articles therein contained shall contravene any principle of doctrine or worship laid down in such standard.”

7: Contrary to General Synod Definition of Marriage
General Synod year 2010 passed a resolution “that the Anglican Church of Australia expresses its commitment to the present definition of Marriage under Commonwealth law.”

Question 2

Whether the use of any other form of service, purportedly made in accordance with section 5 of the Canon Concerning Services 1992, to bless a civil marriage which involved a union other than between one man and one woman is consistent with the Ruling Principles in the Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia.

Canon Concerning Services 1992

Section 5

- 5:1 *The minister may make and use variations which are not of substantial importance in any form of service authorised by section 4 according to particular circumstances.*
- 5:2 *Subject to any regulations made from time to time by the Synod of a diocese, a minister of that diocese may on occasion for which no provision is made use forms of service considered suitable by the minister for those occasions.*
- 5:3 *All variations in forms of service and all forms of service used must be reverent and edifying , and must not be contrary to or a departure from the doctrine of this Church.*

Response to Variations by the Wangaratta Diocese

- 5:1 Response The variation by the made and used **is of substantial importance** as it is condoning an act that is contrary to;
- Scriptural teaching – see Item 4 above
 - General Synod Definition of Marriage Motions passed years 2010 and 2017
 - Contrary to Matrimony (Prohibited Relationships) Canon 1981 – see item 5 above

5:2 Response The "form of service considered suitable" is **unsuitable**, in that It is asking God the Father and Jesus Christ to bless an act that is;

- a) Contrary to marriage as portrayed in Scripture
- b) Contrary to marriage as defined in motions passed by general synod
- c) Contrary to the Fundamental Declarations of The Constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia

5:3 Response The form of service used;

- a) Does not indicate "reverence" for the traditional Solemnization of Matrimony Ceremony contained in the Book of Common Prayer.
- b) Does not "edify" the Church, rather it is causing grief and division
- c) It is "contrary" to, and a departure from the doctrine of this Church

I respectfully request the tribunal give consideration to my arguments and not sacrifice sound doctrine to appease ideology conforming to the way of the world, so that the Anglican Church may be known and respected for holding fast to the truth of scripture.

Yours sincerely,
Russell Delaney