

St Matthew's Special General Meeting

23 May 2018, 7.00pm

*To discuss General Synod 2018's decision Motion 7 (Formally Motion 29)
The blessing of same-gendered relationships*

Written submissions (typed) no longer than 200 words will be received at the meeting

Chair: Rev Stu Crosson
Secretary: Sarah Thornton

AGENDA

1. Prayer and Scripture Reading
2. Apologies
3. General Synod 2018 – What has been passed? Motion 7 (see attached)
4. What does this mean for St Matthews?
5. What are the issues for St Matthew's
6. General discussion
 - a. Two minutes maximum
 - b. Limit each person to speak once to give everyone a chance to speak
7. Motion: "That this Special General Meeting rejects General Synod 2018 motion 7 which authorises the blessing of same-gendered relationships within the ACANZP."
8. What options do we have? (see overleaf)
9. Next Special General Meetings
 - 13th June 2018, 7.00pm
 - 18th July 2018 7.00pm
10. Prayer & Grace

Possible Responses to General Synod 2018

(Motion 7- formally 29 report)

1. Ignore

Carry on as if nothing has changed ACANZP at 30 Hope Street.

2. Remain and Reject

We reject the blessing of same-gendered relationships but remain a part of the ACANZP and the Dunedin Diocese.

St Matthew's would align with the AFFIRM "Christian Community", which would have some input from a "Visiting Bishop" from outside the diocese. Continue to worship at 30 Hope Street and contribute financially to the ACANZP. Clergy, Vestry and Lay Ministers required to sign a declaration of obedience to the rewritten constitution.

3. Go and Align with GAFCON

We align ourselves with the Global Anglican Church that adheres to the Jerusalem Declaration and come under the full oversight of an Anglican Bishop to be approved by GAFCON. This would mean leaving ACANZP and leaving 30 Hope Street.

4. Go and Plant a New Church

We plant a new church in Dunedin, not under the Anglican banner. This would require us leaving ACANZP and 30 Hope Street.

5. Embrace the Move to Bless Same-Sex Relationships

We stay within ACANZP and support the move to bless same-sex couples.

6. Another As Yet Determined Way of Being Church?

There may be another yet to be determined way of responding to this issue.

Motion 7, as amended

GENERAL SYNOD | 08 MAY 2018

Motion # 7

Final Report of Motion 29, 2016 Working Group

Mover: The Rev'd K Eruera

Seconder: The Rt Rev'd R Ellena

That this General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui 2018:

Having been presented with the Final Report of the Motion 29 Working Group, resolves to:

- ☐ receive the report;
- ☐ accept the recommendations in the report subject to appointment of a select committee to consider and report to this Hīnota / Synod on Wednesday, 9 May on changes to address:

A Blessing should require a civil marriage or civil union

Ambiguity on right ordering for ordination be retained

Christian Communities

- a) The constitution of a community recognise te Tiriti, Te Pouhere;
- b) Recognition of a community be with Te Hīnota Whānui / General Synod;
- c) Any allocation of resources to a community recognise mana whenua;
- d) The relationship between the Visitor Bishop and the Diocesan be described more fully and include for the Visiting Bishop to have influence and advocacy but not authority

Implementation of the proposals be in accordance with tikanga within each Tikanga and in accordance with Te Pouhere

☐ endorse in principle, for consideration, the proposed changes to the Constitution/Te Pouhere and Canons of the Church set out in the report, and in Bills 20-24, and

☐ agrees to the withdrawal of Bill 3 (being Bill 15, 2016) and Motion 4 of the General Synod / te Hīnota Whānui 2016 currently lying on the table.

The Issues

in relation to

Motion 7 General Synod 2018 (formerly Motion 29)

The Blessings of Homosexual Marriage

Rev Stu Crosson
May 14, 2018

1) The Authority of Scripture in the life of the church

Authorising the blessing of homosexual relationships is a symptom of a far deeper issue within the Anglican church in New Zealand (ACANZP) namely the willingness to shape doctrine and practice, that contradicts the clear and unambiguous teaching of the Bible. It could be argued this decision is born of values of the world and will lead to further revision of morality and discipleship. Advocates have had to now concede, that to embrace same-sex blessing, requires setting aside the clear teaching of scripture.

2) Teaching and practice which excludes people from the Kingdom of God

There are some matters upon which the church can agree to disagree upon but the Apostle Paul was crystal clear homosexual practice is not one of those 'disputable' matters.

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men[a] 10 nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 1Corinthians 6:9-10

This teaching will lead people away from salvation and into God's judgment.

3) Rewriting the Constitution of our Church

Despite our constitution clearly stating the doctrines of Christ cannot be altered. Motion 7 rewrites our constitution to allow the blessing of homosexual marriage. This clearly alters the ACANZP's doctrine of marriage as revealed in scripture and expressed in the Book of common prayer as being between a man and a woman.

Clergy and Lay leaders (Vestry and Licensed ministers) will need to sign a declaration of obedience to this rewritten constitution and code of canons.

4) The Compromise of the Anglican Name

The consequence of embracing homosexual practice by a denomination in New Zealand has already been shown in the Methodist church. Division and decline have followed dramatically. Already in this diocese, two young Anglican leaders have stepped out of the discernment process for ordination within the ACANZP. Our ability to recruit the next generation of evangelical leaders will be seriously compromised.

Bible, Salvation, Constitution, Compromise: are some of the serious issues this raises for us.