

The Territory of the People Anglican Church

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To: Territory Clergy, Wardens and Parishes

Friends,

On January 6th, a group of Canadian Anglicans known collectively as the Anglican Communion Alliance shared with the Canadian House of Bishops, a legal opinion they sought from a scholar and expert on Canon Law in England. The ACA said they would make the document public “mid January” which is why I am writing this letter now.

In this solicited legal opinion, it stated that the opinion of the Chancellor of the Anglican Church of Canada General Synod in 2016 that Same Sex Marriage was not forbidden by the Canons of the Anglican Church of Canada was incorrect. As such, any Bishops who allow Same Sex Marriage and any Clergy who perform Same Sex Marriages are breaking the Canons of the Church.

The Anglican Church of Canada does allow for a broad depth of opinion on theology, ecclesiology and human sexuality. We are not a monolithic church, and there is a strength to that in some regards - we are not a cult. Anyone who holds a more traditional understanding of Marriage, and those who have a newer understanding of Marriage should both be able to sit and break bread together. However, we must be able to disagree in love, without resorting to thinly veiled threats or soliciting outside legal opinions.

In light of this I want to make this perfectly clear: I will not be closing the marriage canon. The Territory prides itself on being open, and inclusive for all people. I will not exclude members of the LGBTQ2SI+ community from the life of the Church. I will not consider Same Sex Marriage as “provisional” or “temporary” as the ACA wishes. I have found this document written by the ACA to be offensive and deeply insulting, regardless of whom wrote the legal opinion. I am terribly saddened this is one more attempt at relegating members of the Church, followers of Jesus Christ, as second class citizens of the kingdom of God because of their sexual orientation.

Christ commanded us to Love, and as the Territory that is what we shall continue to do.

In Christ,

+ *Lincoln*

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