

Wednesday 26 June 2024

Dear friends,

At its last gathering, an overwhelming majority of members of our diocesan Synod formally requested me to "authorize the solemnization of the marriage of same-sex couples in the Diocese of Quebec."

In a sense, that vote was the culmination of decades of consultations, discussions, debate, and prayerful discernment in practically every expression of our church, including in our diocese and nationally. Key among these was a set of affirmations adopted by the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada in 2019, which had the effect of permitting individual dioceses to exercise a so-called "local option" with respect to offering same-sex marriage in the church. It is on this basis that I have sought to fulfil the diocesan Synod's request.

Attached is a new diocesan Policy on Marriage, which was reviewed by the Diocesan Executive Council on June 19, 2024, and comes into effect on July 1, 2024. It seeks to respond to Synod's request by stating simply and clearly our diocese's guidelines on marriage, regardless of the genders of those being wedded. The policy reiterates an existing long-standing provision which does not oblige any minister to act contrary to their conscience in presiding over any marriage—again, regardless of the genders of those being wedded.

A rite specific to the wedding of same-gender couples has been developed and is available through my office. This liturgy is to be used on such occasions in the Diocese of Quebec, rather than adapting the marriage services found in the *Book of Alternative Services* or the *Book of Common Prayer*.

This policy and liturgy are largely crafted on those adopted by the Diocese of Toronto in 2020. I am grateful to the Bishop of Toronto, the Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, for his permission to draw from their work and adapt it to our context here in Quebec.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Bruce Myers OGS