

The following resolution was accepted by 2/3 vote of the Convention on Oct. 24 to be included in debate and vote of resolutions on Oct. 25. It was presented by the Rev. Mark Lingle who explained it was late because the court ruling came after the deadline.

Resolution #8: On allowing clergy to exercise pastoral care in officiating at services of Holy Matrimony for same-sex couples

Submitted by: The Rev. Mark Lingle, St. Francis, Stamford; the Rev. Scott Hankins, Christ Church, Norwich; the Rev. Dr. Barbara Cheney, St. Paul & St. James', New Haven; the Rev. Paul Carling, St. Luke's, Darien; Elizabeth Adams, St. Francis', Stamford; the Rev. Dr. James Bradley, St. John's, Waterbury; Susan Pokorny, St. Paul & St. James, New Haven; the Rev. Richard Mayberry, St. Francis, Stamford; the Rev. Ellen Tillotson, Trinity, Torrington; the Rev. Joseph Krasinski, St. Peter's/Trinity, Thomaston; the Rev. Mark Delcuze, St. Stephen's, Ridgefield; the Rev. Michael Ray, St. Thomas', New Haven; the Rev. Nicholas Lang, St. Paul's, Norwalk; Mr. James R. Hughes, St. Peter's/Trinity, Thomaston; the Rev. Cn. K. Dexter Cheney, St. Paul & St. James, New Haven; the Rev. Molly McGreevy, St. Francis, Stamford; Marian Bradley, St. Timothy's, Fairfield; Mr. Lyn Myers, St. James, Danbury; Ronald E. Coons, St. Paul's, Willimantic; Frederica Paine, St. Francis, Stamford; the Rev. Richard Maxwell, Grace, Hartford; Dr. Catherine Gorlin, St. Paul's, Norwalk; Walter Briggs, St. Paul's, Norwalk; the Rev. Harlon Dalton, St. Paul & St. James, New Haven; Brian Snover, St. Francis, Stamford; Anne Watkins, St. Paul's, Norwalk.

RESOLVED: That the 224th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut implores the Bishop to allow priests in this Diocese to exercise pastoral wisdom and care and follow the lead of their consciences in whether or not to participate in marriage ceremonies of same sex couples.

Explanation:

The Episcopal Church has discerned the Spirit of God's desire regarding the full inclusion of gays and lesbians in the Church for well over 30 years and affirmed their participation as equals by virtue of Baptism. This Baptismal equality continues to be denied in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

Meanwhile, the state of Connecticut along with other states recognize the full humanity of gays and lesbians and has allowed civil unions in the past and now recognizes marriage equality for all couples regardless of gender. The denial of marriage to members of faithful and loving relationships is recognized by the state to be a denial of human rights.

Realizing the Book of Common Prayer's Marriage Rite needs to be changed to extend marriage equality, an interim solution is possible. There are precedents within the Episcopal Church of dioceses allowing for pastoral wisdom and care to be expressed by priests to that they, following their consciences, can officiate in marriage ceremonies of same sex couples.

Requirements to Implement the Resolution:

None other than the action requested of the Bishop.