

The Anglican Parish of St. Francis

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July 15, 2019

My dearest friends,

As some of you know, the Anglican Church of Canada at their 2019 General Synod, made the decision NOT to proceed with the change to the marriage canon which would have allowed the Anglican Church to proceed with the marriage of same gender couples. This has caused great pain and disappointment to many of our people.

As your pastor, I believe I am called to the ministry of healing and reconciliation and to walk alongside those who are in greatest pain. For that reason, I am providing an opportunity for us to come together in a safe and affirming environment to share our grief and to discuss ways we can move forward in our desire to remain a community where all are welcome, and every human life is seen to be sacred.

I invite you therefore to join me on Thursday, July 18 at 7 p.m. at St. Francis Church for an informal and loving gathering where we can ask questions, express pain, explore our options, share our stories and simply to receive the support we need as a parish to continue to be a loving presence in this church we love so dearly. Our own Bob Wedlake who was a delegate at this synod will be with us to share all the many details of the meeting (not all the news was troubling!) and we are thankful for the leadership he has provided to us and to the national church.

Please understand that the purpose of this gathering is NOT to debate the issue of gay marriage. We can certainly do that, but it would need to be in another forum with a very different purpose in mind – all good. But for now, we need to focus on those who are disappointed by the church's decision (some overwhelmingly so) and who simply need to be loved.

This comes with my warmest personal wishes.

Yours in love,

Fr. Wayne