

Media Release

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Gay and Lesbian Anglicans Launch Website to Support General Synod Resolutions

As the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada prepares to discuss the issue of same-sex unions at its upcoming meeting, Integrity Canada has launched a new website, IntegrityCanada.org, to better communicate the perspective of many of the Church's lesbian and gay members.

The website links 100's of articles, documents and testimonies giving voice to gay and lesbian Anglicans and their friends who are asking the national Church to provide for the blessing of committed same-sex relationships within local parishes.

Integrity Vancouver president, Steve Schuh, said, "The resolutions coming up for discussion fall short of earlier calls on the General Synod to authorize blessing rites directly, so as the debate shifts to those dioceses willing to engage it, gay and lesbian people will need to be heard."

"We are also concerned that this Synod action would not prevent less hospitable dioceses from continuing to discriminate against lesbian and gay Anglicans, regardless of how 'undeniable' their pain and suffering," Schuh said, referring to the single mention of the needs of gay and lesbian people in the recent Matthews task force report on dissenting minorities.

Dr. Donald Meen, past president of Integrity Vancouver, noted however, "These resolutions may well be the best way forward at this time. They permit dioceses that are ready to move ahead to do so without obligating those that are not. As our bishops have repeatedly told us, the Church is not of one mind on this issue."

Schuh continued, "Anglicans are bound by our shared baptismal covenant to 'respect the dignity of every human being.' The tradition of the Church notwithstanding, we can no longer ignore the diversity of opinion among us. We must recognize and respect our faithful brothers and sisters in Christ whose well-reasoned, biblically-informed conscience leads them to affirm and celebrate committed same-sex relationships."

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IntegrityCanada.org is an outreach of Integrity Vancouver (Friendship Society), in cooperation with Integrity chapters across Canada. For more information, phone (604) 432-1230 or email media@integritycanada.org.