

TEMA/TÍTULO: Generosidad Pastoral Pertinente al Matrimonio Civil

PROPONENTE: Rvmo. Obispo Stephen T. Lane

PÁGINA CYC:

PÁGINA LA:

- 1 *Se resuelve*, con la aprobación de la Cámara de _____ que esta 76ª Convención General de la
 2 Iglesia Episcopal reconozca las inquietudes pastorales a las que se enfrentan las diócesis en
 3 estados en los que el matrimonio civil entre personas del mismo sexo es legal; y asimismo
 4 *Se resuelve*, que en esas diócesis, bajo la dirección del obispo, se extienda amplia discreción al
 5 clérigo en el ejercicio de su ministerio pastoral a fin de facilitar la adaptación de las Oficinas
 6 Pastorales para la Celebración y Bendición de un Matrimonio y la Bendición de un Matrimonio
 7 Civil para uso con todas las parejas que buscan el apoyo de la iglesia y la bendición de Dios en
 8 su matrimonio, y asimismo
 9 *Se resuelve*, que a fin de acumular un conjunto de conocimientos para beneficio de la iglesia, que
 10 obispo de esas diócesis en las que se ejerce la práctica pastoral presente un informe anual escrito
 11 sobre su experiencia a la Cámara de Obispos cada marzo y a la Comisión Permanente de Liturgia
 12 y Música para su informe ante la 77ª Convención General.

EXPLANATION:

There are now six states (Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont) where the civil marriage of same gender couples is legal, and other states may follow in the coming triennium. This has created unique pastoral challenges for The Episcopal Church because the definition of marriage held by these states and the language used in the Canons and the Book of Common Prayer of The Episcopal Church is not the same. In all six states, faithful Episcopalians are asking that their church provide the pastoral support and blessing of the church for their marriages. Clergy in those same states are caught between the authority given them by the state and the discipline of The Episcopal Church as it's currently described. The rubrics of the BCP require that "marriage conform both to the laws of the state and the canons of the Church (BCP, 422)." This situation requires a generous and flexible response that offers clergy the ability to make appropriate pastoral decisions in consultation with the bishop and their members. There may be many clergy and congregations that have no desire to participate in the blessing of a civil marriage. But in those places where there is such a will, the freedom to explore that option is vital. The Book of Common Prayer makes provision for special devotions that may be used when services in the Prayerbook do not address the needs of the congregation (BCP, 13). Such devotions are subject to the direction of the bishop. There is also a need for the Church to hear the experience of those dioceses and congregations where good faith efforts are being made to respond to the pastoral needs of faithful same sex couples. This resolution would create annual reporting to the House of Bishops, with a summary report to be made to the 77th General Convention. While this resolution addresses the special circumstances in states with full marriage equality, there is also a need to support other efforts to provide pastoral care (including blessings) to same sex couples in all dioceses of The Episcopal Church.

BALLOT RESULTS:

Endorser(s): The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe, The Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith

Sponsor(s): The Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens The Rt. Rev. James Curry The Rt. Rev. Thomas Shaw The Rt. Rev. Roy Cederholm The Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson The Rt. Rev. Thomas Ely