

Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

RESOLUTION FOR SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY

WHEREAS, our Baptismal Covenant beseeches us to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being”, and

WHEREAS, the Episcopal Church has a history of responding to social justice issues, and has, in numerous General Conventions, recognized that homosexual persons are children of God, and has also recognized that same sex couples, living in a lifelong, committed same-sex relationship, are worthy of having their relationship blessed by the Church, and

WHEREAS, many same sex couples are living in lifelong, committed relationships as a family, including the raising of children, and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in *Title 23, Section 1704 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes*, defines marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman, and also denies recognition in Pennsylvania of same sex couples legally married in other states, thus denying all same sex couples living in Pennsylvania the many legal benefits that are freely given to heterosexual couples, and

WHEREAS, the number of states in which same sex marriage is now legal is increasing, and many employers, as well as the federal government, are now extending benefits to legally married same sex couples, be it

RESOLVED: That this 144th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, recognizing the fundamental injustice imposed upon the families of same sex couples by *Title 23, Section 1704 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes*, supports all efforts to repeal, or otherwise change, this law, and that the bishop communicate this position to Pennsylvania legislators, the Governor of Pennsylvania, and the other Episcopal bishops in Pennsylvania.

SPONSORED BY:

The Rev. Richard Wall, Rector, St. Andrew’s, State College

The Rev. Frederick Miller, Associate Rector, St. Andrew’s, State College

The Rev. Canon Daniel Selvage, Priest in Charge, St. Paul’s, Lock Haven

The Rev. Cannon David Zwifka, Rector, St. Mark’s, Lewistown

The Rev. Lauri Kerr, Priest in Charge of GLEAM, Williamsport

The Rev. Canon Gregory Hinton, Rector, St. Paul’s Wellsboro

The Rev. Canon Paul Donecker, All Saints', Selinsgrove

The Rev. Canon David Lovelace, St. John's, York

The Rev. Canon Ken Wagner-Pizza, Rector & Provost, Trinity, Williamsport

The Rev. Cliff Johnston, Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Hawk Run, Altoona Convocation Convener

The Rev. Christopher Pyles, rector, St. John's Bellefonte