

Canadian Synod decides homosexual relationships are holy

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Source : Oliver Moore - Globe and Mail Update.

The Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada has unexpectedly caused the church to affirm the integrity and sanctity of committed adult same-sex relationships a day after it seemed to have put off the divisive issue for three years.

This has infuriated the conservative wing of the Canadian Church and has also worried the worldwide Anglican Church.

The spokesman for the conservative church group Anglican Essentials said that they feel deceived that the motion passed Wednesday night which called for the issue to be referred to theological scholars could have been so quickly contradicted by Thursday's addition. He said that sections one through five of the motion, which were passed Wednesday, have been called into question by section six, which was added late in the evening and not debated until Thursday.

"The No. 1 concern for us is how the international community is going to react to this" Chris Hawley, the spokesman, told globeandmail.com.

The Archbishop of Canterbury welcomed Wednesday's decision to defer the decision on same-sex blessings. However his statement did not mention the amendment that passed later.

Wednesday's last-minute measure was introduced by Canon Garth Bulmer from the Ottawa diocese. Rev. Dennis Drainville of the Quebec diocese, who seconded the motion, told delegates that the church needs to express compassion.

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