

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Purcellville, Virginia



Resolution of the Vestry

Whereas the bond and covenant of marriage between a man and woman “was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee,” and holy matrimony uniquely “signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people” (Book of Common Prayer, 423), and whereas

A majority of delegates at the 214th Council of the Diocese of Virginia profess to affirm “the inherent integrity and blessedness” of committed relationships when marked by certain characteristics (R-4a), including sexual relationships outside the bond and covenant of marriage as described in the Book of Common Prayer, and whereas

The Windsor Dialogue Commission of the Diocese of Virginia in its January 2009 report offers liturgies of Holy Eucharist in thanksgiving for such relationships, noting that these liturgies provide same-sex couples “the opportunity to have their loving relationships affirmed and legitimized” in direct contradiction to the moratorium requested unanimously by the Primates of the Anglican Communion and instituted by the Bishops of the Diocese of Virginia, and whereas

These actions preempt the listening process the Windsor Dialogue Commission exists to support, and such a lack of “gracious restraint” continues to “tear the fabric of communion at the deepest level” and threatens to fracture relationships and cause incredible pain within our own diocese, and whereas

These actions are damaging our efforts at St. Peter's to reach our growing local population and to build Christians for service; be it therefore resolved that

We, the vestry of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, express our continued support for Bishop Lee and Bishop Johnston in their stated commitment to maintain the moratoria on blessing same-sex unions and ordaining those in sexual relationships outside holy matrimony, and be it further resolved that

We urge the Bishops and general convention deputation of the Diocese of Virginia to act for the sake of the unity and mission of the church by urgently conveying a call for restraint in any move to embrace the blessing of same-sex unions or the consecration of Bishops in such relationships, and be it further resolved that

We affirm with Christians through all the ages the unique beauty and value of holy matrimony, and recognize marriage between a man and woman as the proper context for sexual relations, and be it further resolved that

We commit ourselves to minister the transforming love and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to all people in a spirit of humility, and be it further resolved that The register of this vestry be directed to provide copies of this resolution to the bishops and standing committee of the Diocese of Virginia, and to the deputies, both primary and alternate, from the Diocese of Virginia to the 76th General Convention.

- Adopted by majority vote of the vestry, March 17, 2009
