

Dear friend

Support for marrying same-sex couples in church

Over the next few months the bishops of the Church of England will be meeting to review the 'Living in Love and Faith' process and to agree proposals to bring to General Synod in February 2023. At this year's Lambeth Conference, the Archbishop of Canterbury acknowledged the integrity of a fully affirming and inclusive vision for the Church as part of the Anglican theological tradition. He also recognised the long and careful process of prayer and theological reflection that has led a significant number of churches in the Anglican Communion to conclude that change in their teaching and practice was right and necessary.



The Campaign for Equal Marriage in the Church of England works for that affirming and inclusive vision. We believe that 'same-sex couples should be able to be married in Church of England parishes' and that 'No member of the clergy should be prevented from celebrating a marriage involving a same-sex couple' (from the Aims of the Campaign: <https://cofe-equal-marriage.org.uk/about/#aims>).

We are keen to demonstrate to the bishops that a substantial number of serving clergy in the Church believe in our vision for equal marriage – not only in principle but in practice, when same-sex marriage in church is allowed here in England. We are therefore compiling a list of serving clergy (those with licences and PTO in the C of E) who would be **willing to solemnize the marriages of same-sex couples in church**, when it becomes legal to do so.

If you are a serving priest, **we invite you to add your name to the list.**

Go to <https://ring.cofe-equal-marriage.org.uk/solemnize-ssm/>.

If you are a lay person or an unlicensed priest, **please pass this invitation on to any clergy you know.** Initially we contacted people on inclusive groups, but now the project is public – so don't hesitate.

The list is secure and confidential. It will be used solely for compiling totals of clergy known to be willing to conduct same-sex marriages when they can do so.

We will not disclose the names of those on the list to the public or to the bishops – or indeed to anyone else. This is because we know that some clergy serve in parishes or in dioceses where it is still difficult to be open about such views, and we wish to ensure that priests can record their support with confidence that it will remain private. Each name will be checked against the National Register of Clergy, Crockfords or diocesan websites, and only those verified in this way will be included in the list.

If you want to be part of this, please follow **the link below** and add your details. If you know of others who might like to be included, please pass this message on. And thank you – change is coming to the Church of England, and with your help it can be the change we believe in and want to see happen.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Pietroni'.

Nigel Pietroni

Chair, The Campaign for Equal Marriage in the Church of England

Here's the link: <https://ring.cofe-equal-marriage.org.uk/solemnize-ssm/>