**Bill No 21**

**The Rev’d K Eruera / The Rt Rev’d R Ellena**

**A Bill to Amend Title G Canon XIV "Of Authorised Services" 2018**

**Whereas**, General Synod/Te Hīnota Whānui in 2016 carried Motion 29 asking the Primates to establish a working group to consider possible structural arrangements within the Church to safeguard both theological convictions concerning the blessing of same gender relationships; and

**Whereas**, that working group in its final report made a number of recommendations including the amendment of Title G Canon XIV; and

**Whereas,** General Synod/Te Hīnota Whānui considers it desirable to implement the recommendations of that working group including the amendment of Title G Canon XIV in the manner recommended by that working group,

**The General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui enacts as follows:**

**1. Title.** The Title of this Statute is *The Title G Canon XIV Amendment Statute, 2018.*

**2. Purpose.**  To:

2.1 amend Title G Canon XIV to create a framework to allow for individual clergy to be authorised to conduct services blessing same sex relationships.

**3. Commencement.** This Bill comes into effect at the close of the session of General Synod/te Hīnota Whānui at which it is passed but only provided that Bills 20-24 are also passed at the same session failing which this Bill will lapse.

**4.** Title G Canon XIV is amended by:

4.1 inserting words to the end of clause 1 "except for services the use of which may be authorised pursuant to clause 8."

4.2 inserting the following as a new clause 8:

*8. Diocesan bishops and other bishops with episcopal jurisdiction in a Diocese, Pīhopa Amorangi, and bishops with episcopal jurisdiction in the Diocese of Polynesia may, at their discretion, authorise the use:*

*(a) by individual ministers under their episcopal jurisdiction (including those within non-parish based ministries such as chaplains); and*

*(b) within the Amorangi or Diocese in which that minister is based,*

*of a service blessing the relationship of two people, regardless of their sex, or sexual orientation, or gender identity where the minister has satisfied him or herself that the relationship is loving, monogamous, faithful and the couple are committed to a life-long relationship.*

4.3 Inserting the following as a new clause 9:

*9. No minister shall be authorised to use such a service unless:*

*(a) the vestry or equivalent leadership body of the ministry unit to which that minister is licensed has been consulted in good faith; and*

*(b) the jurisdiction in which the blessing will take place allows for the legal recognition of the relationship that is to be blessed.*

4.4 Inserting the following as a new clause 10:

*10. No minister authorised to use a service of blessing is compelled to bless any particular couple and may exercise their discretion and conscience as to which couples are blessed.*

4.5 Inserting the following as a new clause 11:

*11. Any minister proposing to conduct a blessing service in a place of worship in which he or she does not ordinarily conduct worship shall do so only with the permission of vestry or equivalent leadership body of the ministry until in which that place or worship is located.*

4.6 Inserting the following as a new clause 12:

*12. Clause 1.3 of Title G, Canon III and Clause 2 of Title G, Canon III, excluding clauses 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6, 2.8 and 2.10 apply mutatis mutandis to any service of blessing pursuant to an authorisation under clause 8.*

4.7 Inserting the following as a new clause 13:

*13. Any person authorising a service pursuant to clause 8, or any person using such a service once it has been authorised, will not be subject to any process of investigation or discipline under Title D Canon I or Title D Canon II.*

4.8 Inserting the following as a new clause 14:

*14. Any person who does not authorise a service pursuant to clause 8, or any person who refuses to use such a service once it has been authorised, will not be subject to any process of investigation or discipline under Title D Canon I or Title D Canon II.*