

## Statute 747

### The Title D Canon I and Title D Canon II Amendment Statute, 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 D Canon I and Title D Canon II; and

**Whereas**, General Synod/Te Hīnota Whānui considers it desirable to implement the recommendations of that working group including the amendment of Title D Canon I and Title D Canon II 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 D Canon I and Title D Canon II Amendment Statute, 2018*.
2. **Purpose.** To give effect to the recommendations of the Motion 29 working group by:
  - 2.1 amending Title D Canon I to provide for immunity from complaint and discipline for Ordained Ministers who either agree, or refuse to agree, to conduct services blessing couples in civil marriages or civil unions in accordance with an amended Title G Canon XIV and to provide immunity from complaint and discipline for those who preach or teach that such services are, or are not, consistent with Holy Scripture and the doctrine of this Church
  - 2.2 amending Title D Canon II to provide for immunity from complaint and discipline for bishops who either authorise, or refuse to authorise, a form of service blessing couples in civil marriages or civil unions and who either authorise, or refuse to authorise, Ordained Ministers to conduct such services in accordance with an amended Title G Canon XIV and to provide immunity from complaint and discipline for those who preach or teach that such services are, or are not, consistent with Holy Scripture and the doctrine of this Church
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 21 to 24 (*Statutes 748-751*) are also passed at the same session failing which this Bill will lapse.

4. Title D Canon I is amended by:

4.1 inserting the following as a new clause 4 of Part C2:

4. *No Ordained Minister commits misconduct who:*

- 4.1 *conducts a service which he or she has been authorised to conduct pursuant to Title G Canon XIV clause 8, or*
- 4.2 *refuses to conduct a service of blessing which he or she has been authorised to conduct pursuant to Title G Canon XIV clause 8, or*
- 4.3 *preaches or teaches within the ministry standards of this Church that such services are, or are not, consistent with Holy Scripture and the doctrine of this Church*

4.2 inserting the following as a new clause 5 of Part C2:

5. *No Ordained Minister may be the subject of any process of discipline or investigation under this Canon as a result of the conduct at 4.1 to 4.3 above.*

4.3 renumbering all clauses immediately after the insertions at 4.1 and 4.2 above.

5. Title D Canon II is amended by:

5.1 inserting the following as a new sub-clause 4.6:

4.6 *No Bishop commits misconduct who:*

- 4.6.1 *authorises the form of a service, or individual Ordained Ministers to conduct a service, pursuant to Title G Canon XIV clause 8, or*
- 4.6.2 *refuses to authorise the form of a service, or individual Ordained Ministers to conduct a service, pursuant to Title G Canon XIV clause 8, or*
- 4.6.3 *preaches or teaches within the ministry standards of this Church that such services are, or are not, consistent with Holy Scripture and the doctrine of this Church*

5.2 inserting the following as a new sub-clause 4.7:

4.7 *No Bishop may be the subject of any process of discipline or investigation under this Canon as a result of the conduct at 4.6.1 to 4.6.3 above.*

*We certify that this Statute was passed by the General Synod/ te Hīnota Whānui on 10 May 2018. As witnessed by our hands 29 May 2018.*



*W Halapua*  
*Primate and Archbishop*



*P Richardson*  
*Primate and Archbishop*



*D Tamihere*  
*Primate and Archbishop*