

Statute 748

The Title G Canon XIV 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 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 give effect to the recommendations of the Motion 29 working group by:
 - 2.1 amending Title G Canon XIV to create a framework to allow for Bishops to:
 - a. authorise services blessing those in any civil marriage or civil union; and
 - b. authorising individual Ordained Ministers to conduct such services.
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 (*Statutes 747-751*) 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. (a) *Licensing Bishops of this Church ("authorising Bishop") may, at their discretion:*
 - (i) *authorise the form of a service blessing those who are in any form of civil marriage or any form of civil union recognised by the State in which that authorising Bishop holds episcopal jurisdiction; and*
 - (ii) *authorise the use by individual Ordained Ministers within their jurisdiction (including those within non-parish based ministries such as chaplains), within the Amorangi or Diocese in which that minister is based, of a service authorised pursuant to clause 8(a)(i).*
 - (b) *The authorisation and use of services under this Canon must occur in a manner consistent with clause 1 Part D, clause 1 Part E and clause 1 Part F of Te Pouhere/the Constitution and in accordance with tikanga within each Tikanga.*

4.3 Inserting the following as a new clause 9:

9. *No Ordained Minister shall be authorised to use such a service unless:*
- (a) *the vestry or equivalent leadership body of the ministry unit to which that Ordained 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 civil marriage or civil union that is to be blessed.*

4.4 Inserting the following as a new clause 10:

10. *No Ordained Minister authorised to use a service of blessing pursuant to clause 8 is compelled to bless any particular couple and may exercise his or her discretion and conscience as to which couples are blessed.*

4.5 Inserting the following as a new clause 11:

11. *Any Ordained Minister proposing to conduct a blessing service authorised pursuant to clause 8 in a place of worship in which he or she does not ordinarily conduct worship shall do so only with the permission of the licensed minister responsible for that ministry unit in which that place of worship is located.*

4.6 Inserting the following as a new clause 12:

12. *Clauses 1.3 and 1.5 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, with any changes necessary for meaning, to any service of blessing pursuant to an authorisation under clause 8.*

4.7 Inserting the following as a new clause 13:

13. *Any authorising Bishop, 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 Bishop who does not authorise a service pursuant to clause 8, or any Ordained Minister 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.*

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*