

Response of the Session of St. Andrew's, Dresden, Ontario, to the Special Committee of Past Moderators on the Question of Unity and Diversity

January 10, 2019

The members of the session of St. Andrew's Dresden have read, discussed and prayerfully considered this document. This is our response:

For more than three decades, The Presbyterian Church in Canada has been discussing our response to same-sex attraction. General Assemblies have formally recognized the conflicting views. To avoid the real possibility of a splintering denomination, commissioners have retained our traditional understanding. Yet those in the PCC who are pushing for change have not stood down. A tremendous amount of time and energy has been spent advancing and defending various positions. Our session is itself divided on this issue. We are tired of the seemingly endless debate, which appears to have no obvious solution. We have reached a point of fatigue, where few people want to talk about this issue anymore. Disunity is not healthy. The enemy has used this to divert our attention from what it most important: the commandment from Christ that we take the Gospel to the world make disciples of all the nations.

Therefore, we are asking the church to simply make a decision either way and end the debate. We encourage General Assembly to boldly bring this matter to a respectful debate and vote. We will accept the aftermath. People and congregations may leave. But we believe what is more harmful is the acrimonious division.

We pray that whatever remains of the Presbyterian Church in Canada will be unified in order to truly be the church.

This position was discussed and adopted by session on January 8, 2019.

Rev. Andy Cornell,
Moderator

Mark Labadie
Clerk of Session