



THE STANDING COMMITTEE
Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee

July 1, 2014

To the Faithful Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Milwaukee,

In June of last year Bishop Miller asked the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Milwaukee to act in our capacity as a council of advice in regards to seeking a “generous, pastoral liturgical” response to same-gender couples asking to have their relationships blessed in this diocese.

When we started to discern how best carry out this task, we decided that first we had to have a clearer, non-anecdotal understanding of the mind of the diocese on this issue. As you know we asked the clergy and parishes of the diocese to answers four questions regarding the blessing of same-gender relationships.

The parishes and clergy submitted over 500 pages of information for our consideration. Under cover of this letter you will find our report to Bishop Miller, along with our recommendations. Bishop Miller has graciously received this report and will comment on it after prayerful consideration.

The Standing Committee understands that the inclusion of the LGBT community into the fuller life of the church represents a weighty and complex set of issues. As the church continues to seek clarity on these issues, including the blessing of same-gender relationships, please know that the Bishop, the clergy and the laity of the diocese are in our prayers, as we know they are in yours. The Standing Committee pledges our fullest cooperation to Bishop Miller as he grapples with this.

On behalf of the Standing Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Carroll'.

The Very Reverend Kevin Carroll,
President