

Writing to your bishop(s) about their leadership in your diocese and their involvement in the College of Bishops with regards to *Living in Love and Faith*

Please draw on the following guidance – putting everything into your own words.

GOLDEN RULES

- offer encouragement
 - assure your bishop(s) of your prayerful support
 - emphasise the importance and authority of Scripture
 - avoid caricatures
 - be polite and courteous
 - be positive about what we believe not simply negative about what we reject
 - consider what you know about the bishop's own view but don't make assumptions especially negative ones
 - recognise the enormous challenges the bishops face
 - acknowledge that evangelical churches and leaders have failed to always speak and minister well in these areas.
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You might find it helpful to use the following outline/pattern:

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

You might want to offer a line or two about yourself – which church you belong to and how you serve in it (PCC, ministry leader, Warden etc).

KEY POINTS

Make the key points you want to make. It might be one of the following – or some other related point:

- The Church of England's current position on marriage is a biblical position and you would like to see it maintained
- Scripture cannot reasonably be interpreted to support the blessing or marrying of two people of the same sex
- Affirmation or blessing of any sexual relationships other than male/female marriage is not biblical
- Those wishing that same sex weddings could be conducted in C of E churches will not settle for anything less
- Any departure from current teaching will impact the Anglican Communion as a whole.

YOUR POSITION

It would be helpful if people could indicate that a change in the C of E's doctrine, liturgy or practice would be difficult to ignore.

If you have already decided that in the event of significant change your support/engagement with the C of E will in some way diminish (even to the point of possibly leaving) it would be helpful for your bishop(s) to know of this. But please write it courteously – not as a threat but in the language of 'consequence'.

A PLEA

Ask your bishop to ensure that - in the event of change – robust provision is made for those who cannot in good conscience accept the change. Commend to them resources such as:

- CEEC's Gods Beautiful Story film series (eg 'Learning from Elsewhere') – www.ceec.info
- Vaughan Roberts recent essay