

R14-03: Marriage Equality

Resolved, that the Diocese of Southern Ohio affirm our commitment to equality in society and in the sacraments of the Church, including both the legal and the sacramental covenants of marriage; and affirm the right of every qualified couple to seek the legal recognition and the Church's blessing of their marriage, regardless of the gender of the persons involved; *and be it further*

Resolved, that the Diocese of Southern Ohio encourage our members to make use of the body of study and discussion on this matter in our Church, to promote understanding among Christians and among those who have been shunned by churches; to witness that our Church recognizes the presence of Christ and the gifts of the Holy Spirit in godly, committed, faithful lesbian and gay couples; *and be it further*

Resolved, that the Diocese of Southern Ohio encourage our members to advocate for marriage equality in this and every State; *and be it further*

Resolved, that the Diocese of Southern Ohio urge the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church to take any and all steps necessary to make the Celebration and Blessing 44 of Marriage available to same-sex couple, by the same standards applying to heterosexual couple, throughout The Episcopal Church by due process with all due haste.