



THE PROVINCE OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

18th February 2023

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

The General Synod of the Church of England recently passed a motion permitting their priests to conduct blessings for same-sex civil unions. Understandably, many members of our Province are troubled by this development and wish to seek clarification regarding its implications for us.

We are deeply disappointed by the Church of England's decision and unequivocally state that the blessing of same-sex unions has no biblical ground whatsoever, since Scripture teaches unambiguously that marriage is between one man and one woman. The Church of England has said that their doctrine of marriage remains unchanged. Be that as it may, in the Anglican understanding the words used in a church service, whether they are part of the liturgy or are prayers for persons, must be faithful to Scripture. The provision of a form of words for such blessings violates this key theological principle.

Although we cannot condone the decision made by the Church of England, we affirm that God loves persons of all sexual orientations, and we resolve to do likewise. We cannot approve of relationship choices that Scripture clearly forbids, but we will care for and journey with such persons, praying that the Lord will enable them to live in obedience to His Word.

Since Anglican provinces are autonomous and do not come under the authority of the Church of England, the latter's decision will not change our position and practice. As a Province, we will remain faithful to the teaching of Scripture. We also reaffirm our commitment to the Anglican Formularies—the Thirty-nine Articles, the Ordinal, the Book of Common Prayer, and the Books of Homilies—while noting that they do not grant any concession for the blessing of same-sex unions.

Despite our grave reservations regarding the Church of England's decision, we believe that the unity of the Anglican communion should not be lightly abandoned. Hence, we will remain in communion with the Church of England while praying fervently for her and speaking boldly for God's truth. May His purpose prevail!

With every blessing in Christ,

The Most Reverend Datuk Melter Jiki Tais

(Primate of the Anglican Church in South East Asia, Bishop of Sabah)

The Right Reverend Datuk Danald Jute

(Bishop of Kuching)

The Right Reverend Dr Titus Chung Khiam Boon

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2023 年 2 月 18 日

教省主教院的教牧信

亲爱的主内弟兄姊妹们，

愿恩典和平安从我们的父神和主耶稣基督归于你！

英国圣公会总主教会议最近通过了一项动议，允许他们的牧师为同性民事结合进行祝福。可以理解的是，我们教省的许多成员对这一事态发展感到不安，并希望就其对我们的影响寻求澄清。

我們對英国圣公会的決定深感失望，並明確指出同性結合的祝福沒有任何聖經的基礎，因為聖經明確地教導婚姻是一男一女之間的婚姻。英国圣公会表示，他们的婚姻教义保持不变。尽管如此，在圣公会中，理解教会崇拜中使用的词语，无论它们是礼仪的一部分还是为人祈祷，都必须忠于圣经。为这类祝福提供一种形式的话语，却违背了这个关键的神学原则。

雖然我們不能寬容英国圣公会的決定，但我們確認上帝愛所有不同性傾向的人，我們決心也這樣做。我们不能赞成圣经明确禁止的关系选择，但我们会关心和与这些人一路同行，祈求主使他们能够活出一个顺服他话语的生命。

由于圣公会各教省是自治的，不受英国圣公会的管辖，后者的决定不会改变我们的立场和做法。作为一个教省，我们将继续忠于圣经的教导。我們也重申我們對圣公会公式的承諾 - 三十九條例，授圣职礼书 (Ordinal)，公禱書和讲道集 (Books of Homilies) - 同時指出以上的都不給予同性結合的祝福任何讓步。

尽管我们对英国圣公会的决定持严重保留意见，但我们认为，不应轻易放弃普世圣公会的团结。因此，我们将与英国教会保持共融，同时热切地为她祈祷，并大胆地为上帝的真理说话。愿他的旨意成就！

祝，在基督里一切的福分都赋于你，

拿督戴美德大主教

圣公会东南亚教省

沙巴教区会督

拿督 Danald Jute 主教

古晋教区

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