

Church says no to same-sex marriage

Assembly today upheld the traditional Christian understanding that marriage is between a man and a woman.

Assembly further stated that it didn't support same-sex marriage and the Church will be asking the government not to pass the proposed amendments to the Marriage Act, currently being considered by parliament.

"If the Church doesn't speak up for marriage, who will?" said the Rev Dr Stuart Lange in putting the motion before Assembly.

Those who spoke against the motion said the existing provisions in the Directory of Worship were sufficient, and that a notice of motion was not the best way to discern God's will on this matter.

Assembly declined to uphold a proposal that would have prohibited ministers from administering marriage ceremonies between same-sex couples.

The extensive debate at Assembly on matters of sexual ethics resulted in a call for the Doctrine Reference Group to prepare a discussion paper on the theology of marriage for consideration by the wider Church. Assembly decided against asking for this further work to be done.