

ASAP Steering Committee
211 38th Ave North
Nashville, TN 37209

January 7, 2019

The Rt. Rev. John Bauerschmidt
Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee
3700 Woodmont Boulevard
Nashville, Tennessee 37215

Dear Bishop John,

We are gravely concerned that the decision of the General Convention allowing for same-sex marriage rites to be made available to all members of the church has yet to be implemented in the Diocese of Tennessee. Advent I has long passed.

At least one couple and their rector have in good faith reached out to find out how you would like to structure episcopal oversight for their marriage. They continue to wait for an answer. Other committed couples anxiously wait to make their vows before God surrounded by the communities who love and support them. Grandparents, parents, siblings, extended families, and friends are eager to bear witness to these unions in church, taking seriously their role in promising to "do all in (our) power to uphold these two persons in their marriage."

While our theological differences with our Bishop grieve us, we honor the theological diversity at the heart of our tradition. We are committed to our common ministry in the Diocese of Tennessee through the Episcopal Church, and we continue to hold all members of our diocese in our prayers.

For the sake of our common life in the Diocese of Tennessee, we urge you not to delay this process any longer.

Sincerely,

Connally Davies Penley
Henry Walker
Indie Pereira
Julie and Johnny Erwin
Dr. Stephanie A. Budwey, Luce Dean's Faculty Fellow Assistant Professor of the History and Practice of Christian Worship and the Arts, Vanderbilt University
The Rev. Ali Lutz

cc The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop
The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, President of the House of Deputies
The Rev. Susan Russell, Co-Chair, Task Force on Communion Across Difference