



Press release

Accompanying of individuals and couples, a step forwards

The National Synod of the United Protestant Church of France, following an 18-month process of reflexion and debate at all levels of the church, has agreed to enlarge the possibilities for the liturgical accompaniment of individuals and couples.

At the heart of a four-page decision, the synod agreed the following paragraph:

“The synod is concerned both to help same-sex couples feel welcomed as they are and to respect the diversity of points of view existing within the United Protestant Church. It opens the possibility, for those who see it as a legitimate way of witnessing to the Gospel, to practice a liturgical blessing for a married same-sex couple¹ who wish to bring their union before God.”

Such a blessing is a possibility that has been created. It is neither a right nor an obligation. In particular, it is not a requirement for any parish or any pastor.

Debates concerning same-sex couples are often impassioned and exclusive. They often go beyond the arguments themselves, and include personal, intimate and family matters.

During its work, the synod's primary concern was directed towards individuals and was guided by the desire to bear witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

“We find the source of our joy in the primary “yes” which God (...) places on us through Jesus-Christ. This is the benediction that is the foundation of our existences. Our vocation is to share this joy by ourselves being bearers of blessing for women and men today.”

Sète, France; original in French, 17 May 2015, 11.00 AM.

¹ In France, all couples have to get married legally at the local town hall before coming to church.