



**LET'S HAVE A
THEOLOGICAL
CONVERSATION**

**ABOUT
MARRIAGE!**



An intelligent, respectful, enquiring conversation between Rev. Dr Geoff Thompson and Dr John Frederick

THE FLOW AND TALKING POINTS

- 1:30 Welcome, introductions
- 1:45 **Opening the conversation.** Geoff and John will make an opening presentation on the position they hold on the question of same-gender marriage, and the reasons for it. This will help set a basis for us understanding their approach to the rest of the conversation.
- 2:00 **Talking point 1: Christology and scripture.**
What are we listening for in scripture? What authority do we give scripture? What does it mean to have Christ the Living Word as the interpretive lens for our engagement with scripture?
- 2:25 **Talking point 2: Humanity, sexuality and Creation's order**
What are the key theological principles or understandings about God's creation, the purpose and order of Creation (including gender and sexuality), human beings in the image of God yet also 'fallen.' How might scripture and tradition be validly augmented or critiqued by developments in science and social values?
- 2:50 **Afternoon tea break.**
- 3:05 **Talking point 3: Marriage – what is it, biblically and theologically?**
Marriage has had many expressions, in scripture and across time, place and culture. What for you are the over-arching biblical and theological precepts about marriage, and why? How might these invite or deny an acceptance of same-gender marriage?
- 3:30 **Talking point 4: Catholicity and unity**
Is our understanding of marriage itself a core doctrine or 'of the substance of the faith?' How might a church revise its doctrine or teaching on marriage, respecting the catholicity of the church – what are the ecumenical obligations? What does it mean for a church to affirm two views on this issue?
- 3:55 **Onward from here**
You both belong to, and are committed scholars in, the UCA. How comfortable are you that the Uniting Church not only affirms your view about marriage, but equally affirms the other? If people strongly believe that the alternative view to the one which they hold is contrary to God's truth as they understand it, what do you hope the church's decision might mean for them?
- 4:05 General discussion
- 4:23 Theological reflection on this afternoon: Victoria Lorrimar, Trinity College Qld.
- 4:30 Close

There will be opportunity for questions from the audience during each of the talking points.

HOW HELPFUL HAS THIS EVENT BEEN?

This event has two primary objectives:

1. To offer insights and enquiry on same-gender marriage from two different perspectives in a way that helps people appreciate both positions.
2. To model a respectful, safe and instructive way of engaging across theological differences.

Your feedback will be very helpful in assessing the extent to which this event achieved its purpose. Please complete and leave in the designated box in the foyer.

Overall, how helpful was this event in your understanding of the different views about same-gender marriage? (circle one)

very helpful

helpful

not very helpful

actually unhelpful

What was most helpful? What did you most appreciate or enjoy?

What was unhelpful? What did you find frustrating or disappointing?

Generally, do you think this is a useful model of theological engagement across difference? (circle one)

yes

no

unsure

If a similar event was planned again, what would you suggest for improving it?

As a straw poll: Broadly speaking, what is your response to the 15th Assembly's decision to affirm two views on marriage?

support

oppose

neither

unsure

Any other comments? And feel free to leave your name and details if you would like someone to contact you to discuss this event.

THANK-YOU