

Church of England: ‘Profound disagreement’ remains on homosexuality

LONDON, Feb 9 (Reuters) - The Church of England’s governing body will debate adopting fresh commitments on homosexuality and same-sex couples when it meets later this month, it said on Friday, acknowledging that there remained “profound disagreement” on the matter.

The Church of England - central to the Anglican Communion of 85 million believers across the world - does not allow same-sex marriage, standing by its teaching that marriage is between a man and a woman.

However, the centuries-old institution has been wrestling with ways to make people in the LGBTQ community feel more inclusive in its churches, and it has apologised for the “hostile and homophobic response” some had faced.

The Synod, which consists of bishops, clergy and lay members, last November narrowly voted to back special services to bless same-sex couples on a trial basis, although Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby - spiritual leader of the Anglican church - abstained from that vote.

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