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日本聖公会

NIPPON SEI KO KAI

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A Statement by the Bishops of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai

For the protection of the lives and dignity of people of all sexualities

Beloved brothers and sisters of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, the peace of the Lord be with you.

We, the Bishops of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, have been deeply grieved by the divisions occurring in the Anglican Communion over recent years, stemming from differences in stance and opinion regarding the huge issue of human sexuality. We have also recognized that this is something that affects our own faith community.

In our response to the Windsor Report of October 2004, we noted the importance of the fact that, “At the same Lambeth Conference where it was decided that ordaining those involved in same gender unions could not be advised, a commitment was also made to listen to the experience of homosexual persons,” and we expressed the desire that this should be so. Furthermore, we stated (in February 2005) that, “The Nippon Sei Ko Kai believes in the authority of the Holy Bible. At the same time, we recognize that the texts of the Bible came into being in a particular historical and spiritual context.”

Over the last number of years, we have experienced the process leading to the consultation and adoption at the 2022 Lambeth Conference of the Lambeth Calls, in particular the Call regarding “Human Dignity”. We have also had many opportunities for exchanges of opinion, through the 2023 Nippon Sei Ko Kai Mission Conference program, “Listening to Real Lives”, and through other opportunities to study, and share views on, issues of sexuality. We acknowledge that we do not all hold the same opinion regarding each one of the issues of sexuality. However, following the above process, and also taking our lead from the Safe Church Guidelines, we consider that at this point in time it is of great importance that we make our view clear to you, our brothers and sisters.

We, the Bishops of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, firmly believe that people of all sexualities are created in the image of God, are blessed by God, and that their lives are equal and precious in God’s sight. Furthermore, we are troubled by, and view as wrong, discrimination against any member of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai on the grounds of their sexuality, any attempt to exclude them from the faith community, or any words or actions whatsoever that pose a threat to their dignity. As we live the lives of faith to which we are called as children of God, we follow God’s example of love and concern for all people, which encompasses the diversity of the lives created by God, and we wish to share our belief that all lives are given as blessings from God.

We, the Bishops of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, will continue to learn about, and engage with, the important issue of same-sex marriage and the blessing of same-sex couples.

May we all pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that the actions and the decisions of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai are according to God’s will.

The House of Bishops of the Nippon Sei Ko Kai
8th February, 2024.