



# PRESS RELEASE

Evangelicals in the Church of Scotland

15.12.06

## Church Rejects Proposal on Same Sex Blessings

The Church of Scotland has voted overwhelmingly against a proposed church law to allow ministers and deacons to conduct services of blessing in conjunction with civil partnership ceremonies.

The General Assembly in May 2006 decided to consult the church's presbyteries on whether to give permission to conduct such services. The proposal would have needed a majority of the Kirk's 45 voting presbyteries to be accepted.

The final results of this vote are that 9 presbyteries voted for the proposal, while 36 voted against.

FT Chairman Rev Gordon Kennedy said: "It is sometimes said that the church is divided down the middle on this issue, but this clear vote suggests otherwise."

"We are very happy that the Church of Scotland has overwhelmingly agreed to not approve this proposal, in response to the leading of God's Spirit."

"Had the proposal been adopted, it would have been a significant departure from the Bible's teaching and from historic Christian practice. We believe that such a move would have caused dismay to the great majority of church members, and also to many of our ecumenical partner churches."

### Notes for Editors:

Forward Together represents over 600 ministers and members of the Church of Scotland from the evangelical wing of the church.

An evangelical can be described as a Christian who holds that the basis of faith and practice should be the Bible, with a particular emphasis on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Evangelicals are within the mainstream of historic and orthodox Christianity, as described in the ancient creeds of the church and in the Reformation confessions.

'Mainstream Evangelical' was the only wing of the church to show growth in the last church census, both in the Kirk and in most other Scottish churches. This was also the pattern in England.

*(Source: 'Turning the Tide': Report of the 2002 Scottish Church Census, by P. Brierley).*

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