How would you characterise your views on the Bill in general?

How would you characterise your views on the introduction of same sex marriage, so that same sex couples can marry each other?

How would you characterise your views on putting belief celebrants on the same footing as religious celebrants?
Neither

How would you characterise your views on the arrangements for authorising celebrants to solemnise opposite sex and same sex marriage (including the opt-in procedures)?

How would you characterise your views on civil partnerships changing to marriages?

How would you characterise your views on allowing civil marriage ceremonies to take place anywhere, other than religious premises, agreed between the couple and registrar?
Neither

How would you characterise your views on allowing the religious and belief registration of civil partnerships?

How would you characterise your views on allowing transgender persons to stay married when obtaining a full Gender Recognition Certificate, which provides legal recognition in the acquired gender?

Would you like to comment on the wider issue of protections for those in society who may have concerns about same sex marriage?
We have seen over the years that so-called protections often do not work in practice. And the European Courts are over-riding UK courts. Also, pressure is often put on
folk who take a moral stance to conform to the amoral or immoral "standards" of society. For instance, those who object to involvement in Abortion.

Would you like to comment on the wider issue of freedom of speech?

Already, people are being condemned for saying, graciously, that same-sex sexual practice is morally wrong; even though that moral standard has been in force for hundreds of years. So, where will free speech on this issue be in a few years time. It seems that many cannot or will not see that saying that certain practices are wrong (whether practices of heterosexual or homosexual) is not being unloving towards the people concerned. Nor is it discrimination to take a moral stand against wrong as understood in say, the Ten Commandments.

Would you like to comment on any other wider issues in relation to the Bill that are not mentioned above?

The basic building block of society has for centuries been understood as the Family (husband and wife and children) and this is evidently natural. We in our day are destroying ourselves by our failure to promote and strengthen family life and by our lack of foresight. Other experiments as in Communist states that set aside the family ended in disaster and so will our neglect of family principles and values.

Are you responding as...

a faith/belief local group or congregation
Church of Scotland minister

James Todd
15 August 2013