

GENERAL SYNOD

JULY GROUP OF SESSIONS 2024

FOURTEENTH NOTICE PAPER

PUBLIC APOLOGY

Dear Members of Synod

I wish to issue a public apology to you all for the words I used in my speech during the LLF debate and particularly to those members of the LGBTQ+ community.

I am absolutely devastated that I appear to have caused a great deal of hurt by the use of language which has been taken to be inflammatory or derogatory. I can assure you that it was never my intention to cause any offence in that way. I am truly sorry for any pain or hurt that I have caused.

The point I was seeking to make in my speech was not in fact aimed at any LGBTQ+ person at all. I totally respect and value all persons no matter what their sexuality. The point I was trying to make was about teaching contradictory doctrine. I appreciate that I did not need to include any pronouns in the sentence that has caused so much offence, and I certainly did not mean to do so in a derogatory way. I did not immediately appreciate that it was the LGBTQ+ community whom I had offended, rather than the bishops whom I was blaming for their contradictory teaching.

As someone who has experienced racial discrimination, it pains me to have used my words so injudiciously in a way that has hurt others. I accept that I should be held accountable for my miscommunication. I have learned from this and will ensure that I will not repeat this error ever again.

Yours in Christ,
Daniel Matovu