

Authorize Liturgical Resources for Blessing Same-Gender Relationships

PROPOSER

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music

ENDORSED BYSPONSORED BYPAGE NUMBER(S) FOR REFERENCE

Blue Book: p. 168; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A

HOUSE OF INITIAL ACTION / LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

HB / Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music

CURRENT FILING STATUS

Filed

REVIEW STATUS (PB&F, CONSTITUTION, CANONS)

None required

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 77th General Convention
- 2 commend "Liturgical Resources I: I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing"
- 3 for study and use in congregations and dioceses of The Episcopal Church, with
- 4 the following revisions:
- 5 Throughout "I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing" change "same-gender"
- 6 to "same-sex";
- 7 BB p. 184 (Te benedicere pdf, p.1): change "Resources for Blessing Same-Gender
- 8 Relationships" to "Resources for The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong
- 9 Covenant in a same-sex relationship"
- 10 BB p. 240 (Te benedicere pdf, p. 83): Add rubric after first rubric, stating: "At least
- 11 one of the couple must be a baptized Christian."
- 12 BB p. 240 (Te benedicere pdf, p. 83): In paragraph 2, line 1, delete "at least one of
- 13 whom is baptized,"
- 14 BB p. 241 (Te benedicere pdf, p. 85): In Presider's address to the assembly, delete
- 15 "come what may," (paragraph 1, line 9)
- 16 BB pp. 241-242 (Te benedicere pdf, p. 85): In Presider's address to the assembly,
- 17 delete all of paragraph 2 ("Ahead of them...calls us all to share.")
- 18 BB p. 242 (Te benedicere pdf, p. 85): In Presider's address to the assembly, change
- 19 "let us pray, then," (paragraph 3, line 1) to "Therefore, in the name of Christ, let
- 20 us pray"
- 21 BB p. 245 (Te benedicere pdf, p. 90): After the bidding for peace in their home and
- 22 love in their family, add the following bidding: "For the grace, when they hurt
- 23 each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's
- 24 forgiveness and yours: Lord, in your mercy (or Lord, in your goodness) Hear our
- 25 prayer."
- 26 BB p. 246 (Te benedicere pdf, p. 91): Change rubric that begins "After a time of
- 27 silence" to the following: "The leader may add one or more of the following
- 28 biddings"
- 29 BB p. 247 (Te benedicere pdf, p. 93): In Commitment (both forms) line 7, change
- 30 "I will honor and keep you" to "I will honor and love you"
- 31 BB p. 248 (Te benedicere pdf, p. 94): In first form of blessing rings, change line 2

32 to “as signs of the enduring covenant”
33 BB p. 248 (Te bendecire pdf, p. 95): In Blessing of the Couple, add rubric between
34 first and second paragraphs: “The Presider continues with one of the following”
35 BB p. 248 (Te bendecire pdf, p. 95): In Blessing of the Couple, add third
36 paragraph after the “Amen”: “or this / God, the holy and undivided Trinity, bless,
37 preserve, and keep you, and mercifully grant you rich and boundless grace, that
38 you may please God in body and soul. God make you a sign of the loving-kindness
39 and steadfast fidelity manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior,
40 and bring you at last to the delight of the heavenly banquet, where he lives and
41 reigns for ever and ever. Amen.”
42 BB p. 257 (Te bendecire pdf, p. 104): In paragraph under E. Vocation, change “1
43 Samuel 18” to “1 Samuel 3”; and be it further
44 *Resolved*, That the 77th General Convention authorize for provisional use "The
45 Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant" from "Liturgical Resources I: I
46 Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing" beginning the First Sunday of Advent
47 2012, under the direction and subject to the permission of the bishop exercising
48 ecclesiastical authority; and be it further
49 *Resolved*, That bishops, particularly those in dioceses within civil jurisdictions
50 where same-sex marriage, civil unions, or domestic partnerships are legal, may
51 provide generous pastoral response to meet the needs of members of this
52 Church; and be it further
53 *Resolved*, That bishops may authorize adaptation of these materials to meet the
54 needs of members of this Church: and be it further
55 *Resolved*, that the provision of Canon I.18.4 applies by extension to “Theological
56 Resources for Blessing Same-Sex Relationships,” namely, “It shall be within the
57 discretion of any Member of the Clergy of this Church to decline to" preside at
58 any rite of blessing defined herein; and be it further
59 *Resolved*, That this convention honor the theological diversity of this church in
60 regard to matters of human sexuality, and that no bishop, priest, deacon or lay
61 person should be coerced or penalized in any manner, nor suffer any canonical
62 disabilities, as a result of his or her conscientious objection to or support for the
63 77th General Convention’s action with regard to the Blessing of Same-Sex
64 Relationships; and be it further
65 *Resolved*, That the theological resource for the blessing of a life-long covenant be
66 further developed by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music over the
67 2013-2015 triennium with specific attention to further engagement with scripture
68 and the relevant categories and sources of systematic theology (e.g., creation, sin,
69 grace, salvation, redemption, human nature); and be it further
70 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music include the work
71 of diverse theological perspectives in the further development of the theological
72 resource; and be it further
73 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music develop an open
74 process to review "I Will Bless You and You Will Be a Blessing," inviting
75 responses from provinces, dioceses, congregations, and individuals from
76 throughout The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, and from our
77 ecumenical partners, and report to the 78th General Convention.

EXPLANATION

In response to Resolution 2009-C056, the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music developed liturgical and theological resources for blessing same-gender relationships. Throughout the triennium, the commission heard stories of the urgent pastoral need for these resources in congregations of The Episcopal Church. Because these are new resources for a pastoral situation not previously recognized in official liturgical books of The Episcopal Church, the commission recommends that they be used under the direction of a bishop exercising ecclesiastical authority, and that there be a process of review in order to refine the materials, so that they are in keeping with Anglican theological and liturgical tradition.