



THE EPISCOPAL  
DIOCESE OF  
NEW YORK

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The Rev. Dr. Ruth Meyers  
Church Divinity School of the Pacific  
2451 Ridge Road  
Berkeley, CA 94709-1217

Dear Ruth,

Good to hear from you.

As to the matter of your specific request in response to CO56: I have issued no guidelines for the blessing of same-sex unions. My publicly stated position is, as it has been for years, based upon the conviction that the clergy of this Diocese can be trusted to exercise good and attentive pastoral care to all those among whom they exercise that responsibility. They don't need my permission to do that; that is their duty. Exactly how they carry out that duty is their business. They need neither to seek my permission nor keep their actions secret from me. When asked I have pointed to the significant resources on-line, as well as some remarkably able and informed clergy in our midst. Usually, but not always, the blessings that have taken place, are rather low key.

I'm afraid that this approach won't help your resource development, but it has worked pretty well here in New York.

I hope that you are enjoying California. Quite a change from Chicago.

All the very best.

Faithfully yours,

The Rt. Rev. Mark S. Sisk

THE RIGHT REVEREND MARK S. SISK  
BISHOP OF NEW YORK