

## Ruth Meyers

---

**From:** Barry Howe [bphowe@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 04, 2010 10:04 AM  
**To:** Ruth Meyers  
**Subject:** Response to inquiry from SCLM

Hi Ruth,

I hope you and your family had a wonderful Christmas. And best wishes for a Blessed New Year.

In response to your inquiry on behalf of SCLM concerning Resolution C056, I share this with you.

At our Clergy Conference in September, soon after General Convention, I made the following considerations for our clergy in the matter of the blessing of same-gender relationships.

- Couple must be members-in-good-standing of a congregation.
- Couple must have been in relationship for some time—indicating a life-long monogamous hope.
- Couple must be counseled prior to blessing concerning their covenant relationship.
- Vestry or Bishop's Committee of congregation must approve blessing.
- Bishop must approve the rite to be used.
- No elaborate publicity is to be generated.

Barry R. Howe  
Bishop of West Missouri

Barry R. Howe  
Bishop of West Missouri