

GUIDELINES FOR THE WITNESSING AND BLESSING OF A LIFELONG COVENANT IN A SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIP

1. The rite is contained in Liturgical Resources 1: I will Bless you and You Will Be a Blessing, issued by Church Publishing, Inc.
2. This rite does not constitute a marriage in either an ecclesiastical or legal sense, and that fact should be clearly stated in printed material or spoken announcements accompanying the use of the rite.
3. Before this rite and be used, the congregation/cluster involved will:
 - a. conduct a thorough study of the rite and related issues lead by the rector according to the materials found in Liturgical Resources 1;
 - b. the vestry/cluster council must support the use of the rite by a two-thirds majority;
 - c. the couple must receive at least five sessions of counseling using the materials supplied in Liturgical Resources 1;
 - d. the rite will not be used in the context of any regularly schedules services.
4. No priest or congregation shall be compelled to use the rite. No punishment can be imposed by any entity for not using the rite.
5. Liturgical Resources 1 will be reviewed at the next General Convention in 2015.