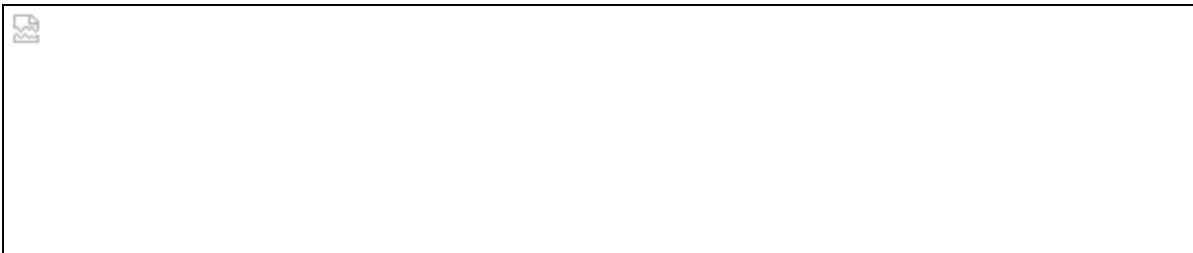

From: Kevin Thew Forrester [mailto:kevingtf@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 8:24 AM
To: Meyers, Ruth
Subject: Re: Rep from Northern Michigan

Ruth,
I have pasted in below Rayford's statement on same gender blessings.
kevin

 Same Gender Blessings

Statement by Rayford Ray, bishop of Northern Michigan, on same gender blessings:



We seek to walk the path that Jesus has modeled for the Church. We are challenged in many ways to become a more inclusive Church: one that welcomes all. As Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan I am supportive of the blessing of same gender relationships. I am aware that the Episcopal Church has been in conversation and discernment for many years and with that journey there has been both joy and pain.

The Episcopal Church is on a continuous journey. At the most recent General Convention, the Episcopal Church commended the study and use of "Liturgical Resources: I Will Bless You and You Will be a Blessing" in congregations and Dioceses of the Episcopal Church. By this action, our Church has authorized the provisional use of "The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant," from these resources, beginning the First Sunday of Advent 2012 (December 2nd).

This Diocese will soon begin working on a process to study and to use this liturgical resource for the blessing of same gender relationships. While these resources do not constitute a marriage rite in the state of Michigan, they are a pastoral response to those persons in same gender relationships, who seek a blessing as they live in a lifelong covenanted relationship.

On Tue, Mar 5, 2013 at 6:56 PM, Kevin Thew Forrester <kevingtf@gmail.com> wrote:

Ruth,

Yes, it has been authorized. Our diocesan liturgy led a workshop on the liturgy last autumn, which was both very well attended and received. We will do a much fuller workshop next fall, once we have conclude our 3 part workshop on the revision of the liturgies of Holy Week.

Kevin

On Tuesday, March 5, 2013, Meyers, Ruth wrote:

Dear Kevin,

Thanks for the update. Has the liturgy been authorized in Northern Michigan? Please send me any guidelines or letters from the bishop relating to this.

Thanks.
Ruth

Ruth Meyers
Dean of Academic Affairs and
Hodges-Haynes Professor of Liturgics
Church Divinity School of the Pacific
2451 Ridge Road
Berkeley, CA 94709
rmeyers@cdsp.edu
[510-204-0720](tel:510-204-0720)

From: Kevin Thew Forrester [<mailto:kevingtf@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, March 05, 2013 8:29 AM
To: Rayford Ray
Cc: Meyers, Ruth
Subject: Re: Rep from Northern Michigan

Ruth,

I appreciate Rayford asking me to be our contact person. One update. My email is kevingtf@gmail.com.

thanks, kevin

On Tue, Mar 5, 2013 at 10:56 AM, Rayford Ray <rayfordray@chartermi.net> wrote:

Dear Ruth:

Greetings and thank you for the fine work you are all doing on the committee and with "Liturgical Resources 1: I Will Bless You, and You Will Be a Blessing." Kevin Thew Forrester will be our contact person:

Kevin Thew Forrester

St. Paul's Church

201 East Ridge, Street

Marquette, MI 49855

Office: 906-226-2912

Mobile: 906-360-1915

kevinf@gmail.com

Warmly,

Rayford

Rayford Ray is the Bishop in the Diocese of Northern Michigan

Office: 906-228-7160 extension 303

Mobile: 906-360-1901

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Soul-makers find each other's company ~ Rumi

Kevin G. Thew Forrester

Ministry Developer & Rector with the Lake District (Marquette, Negaunee, Houghton)

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Please note that I read and respond to email at the end of the day/week, as time permits