

The Blessing of a Same Sex Civil Marriage

Protocols and Guidelines for the Blessing of a Same Sex Civil Marriage

The Bishop of Huron has authorized the blessing of same-sex civil marriages with approved liturgies which celebrate the love, mutual fidelity and support that gay and lesbian Anglicans model every day for the church and wider community. The approved rite is the Blessing of Civil Marriage with Eucharist which may be found at www.diohuron.org. This rite is approved for use in the Diocese of Huron when used in conjunction with the following protocols.

Protocols

1. These celebrations are understood to be a pastoral response to same-sex couples in our community.
2. The clergy involved must seek, in writing, the Bishop's support and written permission a minimum of sixty (60) days before the proposed celebration. (Email is acceptable.)
3. A draft of the liturgy must be sent to the bishop for approval a minimum of two weeks before the service.
4. It is required that at least one member of the couple be a baptized member of a congregation in the Diocese of Huron.
5. Appropriate pastoral support and instruction must be given at the local level in order to prepare the couple for the celebration and their ongoing Christian life in relationship.
6. As with all liturgical celebrations of the church, these events will be entered into the Parish Register (Vestry Book).
7. Clergy from beyond the Diocese of Huron shall obtain permission from the Bishop of Huron and their own Bishop.
8. Any member of the clergy may decline to preside at one of these celebrations for reasons of conscience. However, the request for use of the rite must still be referred to the Bishop's office so that a continuing pastoral response and provision of the rite can be provided in another venue and/or by another priest.

Evaluation

- 1 The Bishop's office (Church House) will keep a record of the celebration and any comments, concerns, suggestions that may come forward to improve these celebrations. Clergy are asked to send a copy of the liturgy and any additional materials to the Bishops' office shortly after the celebration.
2. Guided by the Bishop, the Doctrine and Worship committee of the Diocese of Huron will carry out an ongoing evaluation.

