

Resolution 1 - Supporting the Blessing of Same-Gender Relationships in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts

**Resolved**, that the 110<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts continue to live into a “ministry of transformation and reconciliation...as healthy, mission focused people of miraculous expectation, living the Baptismal Covenant as a way of life,” by expressing its hope that clergy licensed to officiate in the Diocese will be allowed to bless same-gender relationships.”

Explanation:

This resolution is submitted so as to seek Christ, and serve Christ, in all persons.

At the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church in July 2009, Resolution C056 was concurred by both houses and stated: that bishops, particularly those in dioceses within civil jurisdictions where same-gender marriage, civil unions, or domestic partnerships are legal, may provide generous pastoral response to meet the needs of members of this Church.

The Diocese of Western Massachusetts desires to support same-gender relationships “characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God.” Text from 73<sup>rd</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Resolution D039, 2000.

Resolution 2 – A Renewed Pastoral Response of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts Supporting the Blessing of Same-Gender Relationships

**Resolved**, that the Diocese of Western Massachusetts initiate a process to use and develop pastoral and clergy resources that would accompany and support the Episcopal Church-authorized liturgies for the Blessing of Same-Gender Relationships.

Explanation:

At the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church in July 2009, Resolution C056 was concurred by both houses and stated: “... Call forth a renewed pastoral response from this Church, and for an open process for the consideration of theological and liturgical resources for the blessing of same-gender relationships.”

Both Resolutions Submitted by:

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Both Resolutions Co-sponsored by:

The Rev. Kevin Bean, All Saints Church, Worcester

Karen King, All Saints Church, Worcester

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The Rev. Dr. Richard M. Simpson, St. Francis' Church, Holden

Deborah Harmon Hines, St. Andrews' Church, North Grafton

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The Rev. Meredyth Ward, Church of the Epiphany, Wilbraham

Patricia M Connell, Church of the Epiphany, Wilbraham

The Rev. Catherine Munz, St. John's Church, Northampton

The Rev. Dr. William C. Bergmann, Church of the Good Shepherd, Clinton

John Cheek, St. James' Church, Great Barrington

The Rev. Hannah Anderson, St. Stephen's Church, Pittsfield

The Rev. Peter Elvin, St. John's Church, Williamstown

The Rev. Peter Swarr, St. Mark's Church, East Longmeadow

The Rev. Donna Trebilcox, Grace Church, Chicopee

The Rev. Mark H. Hatch

The Rev. Lisa Green, St. John's Church, Sutton