

**Trial Rite for Blessing of Same-Sex Relationship
Questionnaire and Petition**

NOTE: All petitions should be submitted at least 30 days prior to the proposed blessing date and should be addressed to:

**The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle
Episcopal Diocese of Texas
1225 Texas Avenue
Houston, Texas 77002**

This petition is to be used by priests for all those seeking to bless a same-sex relationship. The following information must be provided:

1. Place of ceremony
2. The name of the Episcopal congregation(s) in which one or both of these persons are active members
3. If in a church, has the congregation received the bishop's approval for the trial rite to be used in the sanctuary of the church?
4. The full names and ages of both parties to the proposed blessing
5. How long has this couple been together?
6. Based upon your counseling with the couple include a separate statement of your understanding of the manner in which the couple intends to place God at the center of their relationship and home.

Only a priest can serve as the petitioner in a request for a marital judgment (letters written by others cannot be considered).

NOTE that if the priest making the judgment is not the rector or priest-in-charge of the Church in which the proposed ceremony is to take place, there must also be a letter from that person assuring the Bishop of his or her concurrence with the petition.

If there has been a prior marriage please use this section.

1. Regarding a blessing after prior marriage: the name(s) of the former spouse(s).

2. Please include your separate statement as to why the prior marriage(s) failed.
3. Based upon your counseling with the couple include your separate statement as to why they feel the proposed union will be different from previous long-term relationships?
4. If there has been a prior marriage, please provide the date(s) of any final divorce decree(s).
5. If there are any children from the previous marriage or relationship who are minors, state the financial arrangements for their support and whether all such payments are current.
6. Based upon your counseling with the couple include a separate statement that you are firmly convinced that the petition should be granted and give your reasons for this opinion.

In the event of a third marriage or blessing of a relationship by either party, the parties to the proposed union must consult with a licensed therapist as to their readiness for this commitment. The written opinion of the therapist must be conveyed to the petitioning priest and included with the petition to the Bishop.

Insofar as fourth marriages or unions by either party are concerned, no petitions will be considered except under *very* unusual circumstances.