



BRITISH COLUMBIA SYNOD

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada
80 East 10th Avenue
New Westminster, B.C. V3L 4R5

Pastoral Considerations Regarding the Provision of Same-Gender Marriages or Blessings

The purpose of these guidelines is to assist congregations and pastors in the process of implementing the ELCIC policy regarding same-gender marriage.

1. Parish pastors receiving requests to marry same-gender couples should be mindful of the context to which they have been called. Consequently, pastors are advised not to implement this policy without consultation and support of the decision making body of the congregation.
2. As pastors and congregations discern the possible implementation of this ministry, discussions should be undertaken with sensitivity and respect for divergent points of view, so as not to undermine the common ministry of the congregation. In case of strife and division in a congregation, the congregational council shall seek the advice of the bishop.
3. In order to protect same-gendered couples who may be requesting marriage, it is important to ensure that the individuals involved are not caught in the middle of a congregational dispute. Pastors and congregations may find it helpful to establish policies in advance of such requests.
4. If a pastor or congregation cannot, in good conscience, conduct same-gender weddings, the pastor is encouraged to assist couples who ask for this service to find another setting where they can be served.

+ Greg Mohr

Bishop Greg Mohr
July 21, 2011

(These guidelines are advisory in nature and are adapted, with thanks, from guidelines prepared by the SK and Eastern synods.)