

**News and Current Events :: Episcopal Church expected to OK liturgy for same-sex couples**

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Sixteen years after allowing gays and lesbians to become priests, the Episcopal Church appears poised to introduce a rite that would specifically bless the unions of same-sex couples.

If the liturgy is approved, which is expected, Episcopalians will become the first major denomination to endorse such a rite for homosexual couples.

On its face, the blessing seems similar to that of a marriage rite -- including "I do," "we have gathered together today" and an exchange of rings. Notably absent are the words "husband," "wife" and "marriage." ...

read more: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-episcopalian-same-sex-blessing-07052012,0,7016699.story>