

Statement from Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina
October 14, 2014

On October 10, 2014, a federal court judge in Asheville, North Carolina, overturned Amendment One, a constitutional amendment that recognized marriage as only between a man and woman. With the ruling, same-sex couples are now legally allowed to marry in the state of North Carolina.

In 2004 I made provision and provided guidelines for the blessing of same-sex unions by clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. This provision did not then include the blessing of a marriage, as that was not yet legally possible in North Carolina. Since that time, the Rt. Rev. Anne E. Hodges-Copple, bishop suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, and I have, following our understanding of the teachings and the Spirit of Jesus of Nazareth, been on public record in support of marriage equality and in opposition to the limitations on the civil rights of same-sex couples and others imposed by Amendment One.

The legal situation has now changed, and it is now possible for same-sex couples to be married in the state of North Carolina. Therefore, effective November 1, 2014, being the Feast Day of All Saints, clergy in the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina will be permitted to bless the marriages of same-sex couples in accordance with the provisions provided by the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church (2012) in the ‘provisional rite’ for ‘The Blessing of Same-Sex Unions’ ([Resolution 2012-A049](#)), and the November 1, 2014, revised ‘Liturgical and Pastoral Policies and Guidelines’ of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina to be distributed prior to that date.