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Suggested Liturgy for the Blessing of a Civil Union/Marriage of LGBTIAQ+ persons

Preamble:

Welcome friends, sisters and brothers in faith, to this celebration of life and covenant. In the Methodist Church of Southern Africa we affirm that all people, are created in the image of God. We affirm that all people are created in love, for love and by love. We celebrate the diversity of life into which God has poured out God's self and we uphold the dignity and the sacred worth of all life and all people.

Within the family of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, we acknowledge that we hold a diversity of ways in which we understand and interpret scripture and thus we hold a diversity of views in the affirming and celebration of Civil Unions and Marriage between people who identify as LGBTIAQ+

Therefore today, in this place, in this society of the MCSA we gather to witness and affirm the marriage: the covenant-making action and intent of _____ and _____.

Legal Declarations: (as per Methodist Worship Book: 1999)

Introduction to the exchange of vows:

Our Mothering and Fathering God,
We celebrate today your continual unfolding in all the diversity of life.
Every articulation of life is an act of your covenanting grace

Our God who is: Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer
We celebrate today the community of Trinitarian love
That has created all people in your image.
Covenant and Community are intrinsic to our humanity
We are created for love, in love and by love
And every time we respond to your love oh God, that first loved us,
We participate in your expression of life in this world.

Today we celebrate, witness and affirm this civil union/marriage
As an expression of covenant and community.
For every time we, Covenant to hold up each other's value,
To be a witness of your love in each other's lives:
in times of joy and sadness
in times of struggle and celebration
To be a witness of your grace in each other's lives
When we are too lost to remember,

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When our blind-spots become too large for us to see
We participate in your unfolding grace in the world.
In light of this, today we gather as a community to witness and affirm this expression of love and covenant between _____ and _____ as they name their intention to love each other.

Blessing of rings... (as per Methodist Worship Book: 1999)

Exchange of vows... (as per Methodist Worship Book: 1999 also sometimes people write their own vows)