



EVANGELIST BLESSING—CREATIVE OPTIONS

The evangelist(s) and participant(s) may find symbols or symbolic actions meaningful and helpful. These are optional. Ideas include:

- An individual or couple could be wrapped in a fabric *tifaifai* or “prayer shawl” as the prayer is offered. The *tifaifai* or shawl could be given as a gift to the recipient(s).
- Seated candidates for blessing might choose to signify openness and receptivity by placing their hands, palms up, on their knees.
- Couples, families, households, congregations, and groups may choose to hold hands as they receive the blessing.
- Blessing recipients may want to form a circle for the blessing.
- The participants might choose to bless each other by resting hands gently on the shoulders of those seated in front of them. Reverse the direction so those who initially were blessed now receive blessing.
- The evangelist(s) and participant(s) may choose to kneel for a moment of reflection before the blessing.
- Before moving into the blessing, the evangelist(s) may lead a moment of reflection with statements like, “We kneel in humility as a beloved covenant community to prepare to receive this blessing,” or “As beloved children of God we prepare to receive this blessing.”
- As preparation, an evangelist may offer a short prayer, such as, “May your Spirit of blessing be present with us today. Amen,” or “O God, please accept the offer of our hearts and hands to your service, we pray. May your Spirit of blessing be present with us today. Amen.”
- In congregations, the blessing may be divided into sections (i.e. children, youth, adults; priesthood, leaders, members, and friends) and offered as separate prayers followed by a final prayer addressing the entire congregation.
- Before the blessing, an evangelist may light a candle as a sign of preparation, readiness, and the Holy Spirit’s presence.
- The evangelist(s) and participant(s) may choose a hymn or other appropriate music to be played before the blessing. Consider sitting together and possibly joining hands while listening.