Eagle Ridge United Church

Wedding Policy

Governed by: Session
Adoption Date: February 27, 2005
Modification Date: May 16, 2016

POLICY:

All weddings carried out under the auspices of Eagle Ridge United Church, including those using the church's register are subject to the following:

1. **OFFICIANTS**
   - All officiants will be licensed Christian Ministry personnel.
   - The minister of the congregation will normally conduct the ceremony. In the event that the minister is unavailable, the minister or Session can discuss options.
   - In cases where there is a request for someone other than the minister of Eagle Ridge United Church to participate in the ceremony, the Session in consultation with the minister, may authorize the 'guest minister' to assist in, or to perform, the service.

2. **EXPECTATIONS**
   - Any two persons in possession of a valid marriage license are eligible.
   - The couple must meet with the minister prior to the wedding for planning purposes.
   - Couples are not expected to be members of the congregation, but are expected to familiarize themselves with the life and work of Eagle Ridge United Church by attending worship, fellowship, or Christian Education events at least three times before the wedding.
   - Couples should expect a Christian wedding service.
   - It is recommended that couples undertake a marriage preparation program for all weddings held under the auspices of Eagle Ridge United Church. The minister can provide suggestions as to where the couple can find a program.

3. **MUSICIANS**
   - Couples are free to engage independent musicians, or supply recorded music. Any fees associated with our pianist or other engaged musicians are the responsibility of the couple. Musical selections must be approved by the minister prior to the wedding.

4. **COSTS**
   - Because we believe that a wedding ceremony is a service of worship, and because we don't believe that worship services are anything but free, Eagle Ridge United Church does not charge for weddings. However, there may be some costs associated with special cleaning if needed.