

## Wedding Policy

Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church  
Leicester, New York  
February 23, 2015

The Ruling Elders of the Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church believe that the books of the Holy Bible, both Old Testament and New Testaments, are for our instruction in right living (2 Timothy 3:16). By holding to this, it is our understanding that marriage is a holy institution between one man and one woman, ordained by God from the beginning in the garden (Genesis 2:20-25). Jesus Christ, the Son of God who established the Church (Matthew 16:18) of which we are a part and over which Jesus reigns as its supreme head (Colossians 1:17-19), confirmed what God the Father had created from the beginning (Matthew 19:2-6). It is on this foundation that we set the basis for this policy.

Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church affirms, in its policy, the Position Paper Adopted by the 24th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, June 2004, that states, in part, the following:

### **God ordained marriage for the following ends:**

The Glory of God: Marriage exists first and foremost to glorify God. Human beings individually are image bearers of God (Genesis 1:26), but man and woman in marriage also display His glory (vv. 27-28). Marriage as a creation ordinance glorifies God as Creator. Beyond that, however, marriage is to glorify God as Redeemer, for Christian marriage is the consummate illustration of the redeeming grace of God in Christ (Ephesians 5:22-33). To the degree that Christians live out this pattern of God's love through His grace in Christ (Ephesians 5:1-2), they witness to one another, their children, the church and the world the gospel of God's redeeming love in Christ. However, God's glory and our good are complementary. For this reason, marriage exists also for our good in the following ways:

*Companionship:* Genesis 2:18a teaches that "it is not good for a man to be alone." Therefore, from the beginning God called men and women to promote mutual care and friendship within their marriage relationship.

*Mutual Assistance:* Genesis 2:18b adds "I will make a helper suitable for him," reminding us that we are to be a help to one another in the marriage relationship. Also, each husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her (Ephesians 5:25).

*The Bearing, Nurturing & Training of Children:* Genesis 1:28 and Ephesians 6:4 teach that the marriage relationship is also for procreation and moral teaching of children (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

*Promoting the Stability of Society:* When marriage, the foundational human relationship, is degraded, the family unit disintegrates and the fabric of any nation unravels (cf. Genesis 2).

*Affirming the Proper Context of Human Sexuality:* Hebrews 13:4 clearly teaches that sexual intimacy should be reserved for a man and a woman within the covenant of marriage.

### ***Soli Deo Gloria***

We consider that wedding services are worship services before God, conducted in His honor according to His Word. We seek to please Him in these services, both for the joy of worshiping Him in celebration, and in order to be able to ask Him to bless the marriage.

A Wedding Policy book, including fees applicable to what you choose, is available for pick-up in the church office.

Weddings need to be scheduled in a timely manner.

If you would like more information about any of these services listed, please contact the church office at 585.382.3311.

Respectfully,  
Session of the Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church