

## Wedding Policy for Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Westlake, OH 04Jan2016

This policy comes to the floor of the meeting with the recommendation by the church council to adopt.

### Preamble:

Marriage is a covenant relationship between two people, which we understand as the loving and holy intention of God for people to live in healthy relationships. The church has long seen the importance of supporting couples in making this commitment surrounded by prayers, the promises of faith, and the pronouncement of God's blessing.

All couples are welcome to be married at Prince of Peace, those who are members as well as couples from the community who are not part of our community of faith.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church provides a sanctuary and a pastor in the hope that our ministry to the community will aid couples at the start of a truly blessed marriage. The wedding service is an act of worship and that time when a couple is joined together signifying their bond with public vows to one another and before God. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church also desires to make the wedding ceremony a memorable occasion and an event that each couple will remember with joy. Because marriage is a holy relationship that will last a lifetime; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Congregational Council has established certain guidelines that provide assistance in preparing for this lifelong commitment.

1. All couples must make an appointment with the presiding pastor for participation in several sessions of pre-marital counseling and planning the wedding service. A couple might also choose to participate in the Lutheran Engaged Encounter Program (this later program is run independently, and is not a program of Prince of Peace).

*The above preamble is part of a longer wedding policy brochure. The remaining points covered in the policy are administrative items that do not pertain to the issue of same gender weddings, and so are not included here.*

### **Motion to be considered by the congregation at the February Annual Meeting of the Congregation:**

With the legalization of same gender weddings in the United States, including the state of Ohio, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, of Westlake, OH will allow any couple who comply with the wedding policies of the congregation to hold their wedding service in our sanctuary, or on our church property\*.

An affirmative vote is needed to adopt this clarification to our wedding policy.

- Yes (for the motion)
- No (against the motion)
- Abstain.

\*Under the current guidelines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregations have the right to decide the issue of allowing or prohibiting same gender marriage ceremonies on their church property.