

**Policy for Weddings
Prospect Congregational UCC (PCUCC)**

Prospect Congregational United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming congregation located in north Capitol Hill of Seattle, WA, at the corner of 20th Avenue E and Prospect. Our sanctuary has been the location for many beautiful and meaningful weddings and commitment ceremonies. It is available for both members and non-members.

Service Guidelines

A wedding in our church is understood by us as a service of worship. Our minister prepares a ceremony reflective of our open theology and within the tradition of the United Church of Christ. We see the ceremony as a celebration of God and the love that has brought the couple to this day to make public their covenant with one another. At the same time we seek to honor the personal faith journey of each of the individuals seeking to make their commitment. Our pastor will provide a suggested framework for the service and will work with the couple in creating a meaningful ceremony.

We ask the following:

Please contact the church office and our office manager to see if the date you are planning for your ceremony is available. If the date is open on the church calendar, make arrangements for our Pastor to call you.

Use of the church by its members shall have priority at all times.

All couples and officiants will be asked to honor Prospect's Working Covenant and our open and affirming philosophy as stated in this Covenant – *we covenant to be open and affirming of ourselves as God accepts us – of all people as God accepts us all, of our ordinariness and uniqueness, in our personal struggle to find God, of our sexual orientation, - of our different physical, mental and emotional abilities.*

All music used for the service shall be selected in consultation with the officiating Pastor.

Use of our piano and organ requires prior permission from our Music Director.
The Piano may not be moved from its current location without prior permission.

All photography and video requests shall be in keeping with a service of worship. These requests may be discussed in advance with the officiating Pastor.

Use of rice and seeds, etc. is not permitted on church property.

Weddings for Prospect Members

Our pastor officiates for all services in the building for members. Guest officiants or other religious leaders are very welcome to co-officiate and/or share in the service in some way.

Prospect's Pastor provides these services for members of Prospect. An honorarium for a co-officiant is at the discretion of the couple.

Please plan to meet with the officiating pastor for at least two sessions prior to the ceremony. Pre-marital counseling is available, and if desired, couples should plan to meet with the Pastor for at least three sessions prior to the ceremony.

Weddings for Non-Members

For non-member weddings, when an outside officiant is requested, the couple must speak with our Pastor for consideration of their request. Please provide the Pastor with contact info for the guest officiant. Our Pastor will contact them, talk over our policy, and make the determination as to whether the request is appropriate based on professional judgment and our church policy guidelines.

Please plan to meet with the officiating pastor for at least two sessions prior to the ceremony. Pre-marital counseling is available from Prospect's Pastor, and if desired, couples should plan to meet with the Pastor for at least three sessions prior to the ceremony.

Honorarium for Prospect's Pastor for Weddings for Non-Members

This is separate from the church fees for Weddings.

Weddings usually require 10 – 15 hours of the Pastor's time in pre-marital counseling, preparations, presence and oversight of the rehearsal and wedding. Non-Members are asked to give an honorarium in the range of \$300 - \$500, at the couple's discretion. If this is a hardship for anyone, please talk with the Pastor.

The honorarium may be given directly to the Pastor either as cash or by check made out to the Pastor. The honorarium is requested by the time of the rehearsal or the day before the ceremony.

An honorarium for a small, informal Wedding (less than 10 people), or a Ceremony at an off site location may be discussed directly with the Pastor.