

EQUAL MARRIAGE POLICY UPPER VALLEY PRESBYTERY

1. In Upper Valley Presbytery we believe that all marriages, including those between couples of all sexual orientations and gender identities, are equal. Since a purpose of ministry is to bring people into relationship, we are called to be open to everyone as part of the Christian family. We believe that the call of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is for our pastoral charges to provide ministry to all people.

Therefore,

we recommend that Upper Valley Presbytery continue to support the ministry of pastoral charges with their covenanted minister, called or appointed minister.

2. Presiding at Christian marriages is a function of ministry.

Therefore,

couples will apply to the appropriate pastoral charge through the covenanted minister.

If a pastoral charge is not willing to have its minister preside at a wedding ceremony for persons of all sexual orientations and/or gender identities, or for their worship space and marriage register to be used, names of pastoral charges which are willing will be provided.