

## Policy Regarding Lay Performance of Wedding Ceremony

An adult member of the congregation may request of the senior spiritual leader that he or she be empowered to perform a marriage service between a specific couple on a specific date, provided the ceremony is to be performed at UUCGT. The senior spiritual leader shall authorize this ceremony provided the ceremony is consistent with the mission of UUCGT and existing policies regarding building use.

### Procedure

A request for such a lay performance must be submitted, in writing, to the senior spiritual leader, no less than 90 days prior to the scheduled date of the ceremony. The request shall state the name of the couple to be married and the date of the intended ceremony. It shall also include a written description of the intended ceremony. The senior spiritual leader shall review the application, discuss the intended ceremony with the member submitting the request and make a decision as to whether the ceremony meets the requirements of the policy. Such a decision shall be made and communicated to the member in writing within 30 days from the date the request is received. If the senior spiritual leader approves the performance, he or she will issue to the person requesting the empowerment a written statement on congregation letterhead as follows: [Name of member] is empowered to solemnize the marriage of [name of bride and groom] at a ceremony to be performed on [date] at UUCGT.

This policy was adopted to conform to the requirements of MCL 551.7, which provided, at the time the policy was adopted: "(1) Marriages may be solemnized by any of the following:

...

(i) A minister of the gospel or cleric or religious practitioner, anywhere in this state, if the minister or cleric or religious practitioner is ordained or authorized to solemnize marriages according to the usages of the denomination."