

Congratulations on Your Engagement!

And thank you for asking me to be a part of your wedding. Making and keeping sacred promises is an integral part of all that is beautiful and just in the world. Shaping and celebrating weddings is one of the most enjoyable parts of my religious life and work. While it fills me with pride to be a Unitarian Universalist, I do not require that you be one for me to serve as your officiant.

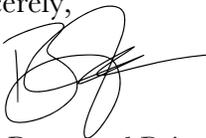
Pre-marriage: In the months before the wedding we will meet for two to three pre-marriage counseling sessions. These meetings are twofold: So, I can get a good understanding of your relationship, and also your plans for the ceremony. I am more than delighted to work with you to achieve a personalized testament of your love and partnership. Before I begin crafting the ceremony, I will ask that each of you write a letter addressed to one another, that you will initially submit to just me. This practice allows me to gain special insight into your individual personalities, hopes, and dreams. In addition, the letters inform me as I write your ceremony, making it far more personal and meaningful for you, and also for your loved ones. We can discuss this more when we first meet.

Ceremony: I think of a wedding ceremony as having several components: Opening Words & Introduction; Recognition of the Gathered Community; Affirmation of Intentions; Charge; Betrothal; Exchange of Vows; Pronouncement; and Closing Words. (There is also the signing of the Marriage Certificate, which typically takes place outside of the ceremony, but doesn't have to be.) All of these components can be adjusted and personalized according to your tradition and wishes.

Fees: I ask that you pay \$400; with rehearsal \$450. If the wedding will be held more than 25 miles from the church, please add IRS Standard Mileage Rates from Wausau, Wisconsin, to the appropriate address. (Please note that members of the First Universalist Unitarian Church are not required to pay any fees for me to officiate. If you desire to provide an honorarium, I kindly request you gift it to the church in honor of your joyous occasion.) To secure the date, please be prepared to make a \$200 non-refundable deposit immediately; the deposit goes towards the total balance. The remainder must be paid prior to the wedding, and no later than the date of the rehearsal. Please let me know if specific circumstances or a financial situation prevent you from attending the meetings or affording the fees. I am happy to work together to find a solution everyone is happy with.

Whatever you decide, I wish you all the very best of happiness and a long life together.

Sincerely,



The Reverend Brian J. Mason
Minister
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