

# REXMONT EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

328 REXMONT ROAD LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA 17042

Approved by the Ministry Council August 2021

## **Official Rexmont E.C. Church Wedding Policy**

***Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church is a Christ-centered community striving to demonstrate the love of God as we grow together, connect with others and serve.***

We, the members of the Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church, in order to maintain our organization in accordance with the DISCIPLINE of the Evangelical Congregational Church (DENOMINATION), and to promote the spiritual and earthly development of our members, do establish and adopt the following policy for our congregation.

### **A Statement of Understanding**

The leadership of Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church recognizes and supports the fundamental institution of marriage. As well and as part of the greater Evangelical Congregational Church, the local church also agrees with the clearly articulated Denominational standard regarding marriage, as specified and defined in the DISCIPLINE (143.1.2.1.1):

*“The Bible conceives of marriage as a lifelong, monogamous commitment between a man and a woman. The two, man and woman, become one in the marriage bond (Genesis 2:24). The institution of marriage, ordained of God (Genesis 2:24), has been reaffirmed by Jesus (Matthew 19:5) and Paul (Ephesians 5:31). Our Lord Jesus further declared this union to be indissoluble when He said, ‘What God has joined together let man not separate’ (Matthew 19:6). This marriage covenant is morally binding so long as both shall live (Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:39) and may not be dissolved at will. Since the strength of any society is based upon a firm family foundation, and a strong family is based upon total commitment of husband and wife, we strongly urge that:*

- *Appropriate instruction by precept and example in the sacredness of marriage be given to our children from the earliest ages, both at home and in the church;*
- *Our pastors seek, by every means possible, to convey to their congregations the sacredness of Christian marriage;*
- *Our pastors insist on adequate premarital counseling prior to solemnizing any marriage;*
- *Every effort be made to ensure that persons entering into marriage harbor no reservations with regard to lifelong commitment;*
- *This step should be taken only when it can be done in the Lord (I Corinthians 7:39) and thus avoid being “yoked together with unbelievers (II Corinthians 6:14) in life’s most intimate relationship.”*

With regards to alternate lifestyles prevalent in our world today, we affirm that the homosexual relationship is not acceptable as a biblical lifestyle, and any homosexual act, even between consenting adults, is a violation of the biblical ethic. Therefore, homosexual unions fall outside of the definition of Christian marriage. Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church reaffirms its agreement with the clearly articulated Denominational standard regarding homosexual unions. (DISCIPLINE 143.1.2.3.1)

*Consistent with our understanding of human sexuality and marriage as articulated in Sections 143.1.2 of the Discipline, persons holding ministerial credentials in the Evangelical Congregational Church are prohibited from performing any rite or ceremony, as well as from signing any documents pursuant to the sanctioning or solemnizing of same-sex unions or same-sex marriages or any union or marriage other than that between one man and one woman, nor may they recognize these unions as solemnized by other jurisdictions.*

### **A Marriage Policy**

After sufficient deliberation by taking into account all of that which is above and following a season of prayer, it has been determined by the local church Ministry Council that all marriages to be performed within the Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church must be performed as Christian marriages ensuring that Christ remains central in the lives of the individuals being married.

Furthermore, the pastor of Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church will follow all rules and regulations relating to marriage as contained within the DISCIPLINE, thereby, submitting to denominational authority when participating in any marriage ceremony celebrated either in the church or in any other venue than that of the local church.

### **A Resolution**

Be it resolved that from this day forward the only marriages which will be administered in the local Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church will be Christian marriages, as defined in this document and in the DISCIPLINE of the Evangelical Congregational Church.

The duly appointed pastor of the Rexmont Evangelical Congregational Church, in consultation with the Ministry Council, and following the standards set forth in the DISCIPLINE of the Evangelical Congregational Church, will be the final authority in every aspect associated with the marriage ceremony to be performed within the church. The Rexmont pastor will also hold the authority to approve or reject any other ecclesiastical participant within the wedding ceremony as requested by the marriage partners.

Finally, because of the previously delineated conditions, the church building will under no circumstances be “rented, loaned, or opened” to any couple unwilling to submit to the above conditions.