



60 West Market Street / Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801

RISE United Methodist Faith Community is a movement of Jesus-followers seeking to mend God's creation together in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Living into Jesus' radical example of love, at RISE we believe "everyone means everyone". We welcome all Christ's children, especially those who find themselves marginalized.

We recognize the union of marriage as a beautiful covenant between two adults, and their Creator. Our community cherishes the opportunity to surround each couple as they commit to each other in love and faith, regardless of race, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.

We acknowledge that our inclusive stance on homosexuality and marriage conflicts with the United Methodist Church (UMC), as stated in the 2012 Book of Discipline:

¶ 341.6: Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.

However, as faithful citizens of Christ's Kingdom, we desire to stay connected to the UMC during the current season of discernment throughout the denomination.

It is within this climate of uncertainty that the leaders at RISE drafted and approved the following Wedding Policy in an effort to faithfully walk alongside UMC leaders.

RISE United Methodist Faith Community Commitment:

1. Journey with each and every couple who seek the covenant of marriage.
2. Live within the guidelines of the RISE Wedding Policy until the official stance of the United Methodist Church, stated within the Book of Discipline, is adapted to include all Christ's children.

RISE Wedding Policy

In accordance with RISE United Methodist Faith Community's Wedding Policy, all parties agree and abide by the following policy guidelines:

- RISE will designate Community Officiants each year.
 - Community Officiant serves as a leader within RISE, who is deeply committed to RISE's core values and to the radical inclusivity of the Gospel.
- Every intended couple will select a Community Officiant to lead alongside RISE's Pastor for their marriage ceremony.
- Responsibilities of the Community Officiant include, but are not limited to:
 - Perform marriage vows for intended couple (Required)
 - Sign the Marriage License (Required)
 - Help design the ceremony alongside intended couple
- Responsibilities of RISE's Pastor include:
 - Journey with intended couple through premarital preparation sessions
 - Help design the ceremony alongside intended couple
 - Participate in the Wedding Ceremony:
 - Lead prayer
 - Read scripture
 - Consecrate Holy Communion, if the couple so desires
- As each intended couple journeys towards marriage, a financial gift to cover the cost of obtaining a One Time Civil Celebrant license for the Community Officiant is requested.
 - 2017 Virginia Civil Celebrant License: \$61.00