



DOCUMENT NUMBER	WE001
TYPE	Policy
SUBJECT	Use of church buildings for non-Anglican weddings
AUTHORISED BY	Diocesan Council
DATE AUTHORISED	7 th May 2022

1 Preamble

Occasionally we receive a request for a non-Anglican wedding service to be conducted in an Anglican building, perhaps because the couple attend a church without its own property, or have a friend who is a celebrant from a different denomination (or not a religious celebrant). In a culture where the understanding of what constitutes marriage varies between government and churches, and among different denominations, it is prudent to articulate a policy about using church premises for non-Anglican weddings.

2 Purpose

2.1 *In scope*

The purposes of this Policy are as follows:

- a) To bring clarity about what non-Anglican weddings can be conducted on the premises of the Diocese of the Northern Territory including the parishes, limited in accordance with Section 47B of the *Marriage Act 1961*.

2.2 *Out of scope*

The policy does not attempt to address:

- a) Weddings conducted by Anglican clergy according to the rites of the Anglican church of Australia.

This policy would be overridden by an ordinance passed by synod that provided for this situation.

3 Policy

- I. Requests to conduct non-Anglican weddings on Anglican premises in the diocese will be referred to the bishop's office and require the bishop's permission;
- II. Weddings shall be approved at the Bishop's discretion without further information to be given;
- III. The Bishop will give permission only when the following conditions are satisfied:
 - a. The marriage does not contradict the doctrine of marriage held by the Anglican Church in the Diocese of the Northern Territory. This includes that remarriage



of a divorced person is only permissible under certain conditions, and that marriage is between a man and a woman. The bishop will determine that these conditions have been met.

- b. The rites of the wedding service do not contradict the doctrine of marriage held by the Anglican Church in the Diocese of the Northern Territory. This includes statements as to what marriage is.
- c. The Notice of Intention to Marry and accompanying required documents has been seen by the bishop to provide information about the parties to the marriage.
- d. The rector of the relevant parish and a majority of the relevant Parish Council have given their approval for the use of the premises within the parish.

- IV. The rector of the Parish shall ensure that the guidelines relating to the Hire of Facility Agreement are met for the wedding service in accordance with the Administration Circular.

4 Timing

This policy will take effect from November 1, 2022.

For completion when document supersedes and existing policy, procedure or protocol.

VERSION NUMBER OF THIS DOCUMENT	DATE OF PREVIOUS DOCUMENT	SUMMARY OF CHANGE	REASON FOR CHANGE