

Weddings have become a Big Business industry. Thus the ceremony itself must focus exclusively on the personal, prove meaningful to the couple, and inspire a profound feeling of intimacy for all in attendance. The purpose of the ceremony far surpasses making the relationship legal; it becomes the fulcrum of celebration, fun, and dignity. The ceremony is more than a photo op. It is where a couple announces to the world that their future will be a mutual journey and their lives thereby enriched. Selecting the “right” person to serve as celebrant for the occasion will prove a rewarding effort.

I’m the Rev. Tom Goldsmith, minister of the First Unitarian Church in Salt Lake City since 1987, and have officiated more than 900 weddings in Utah. Each ceremony is unique because I don’t offer a canned framework. Every couple I have ever worked with has been appreciative for the time and attention paid to their distinctive way of expressing their personal joy publicly.

I have published several articles in *Modern Bride Magazine* that reflect the sensibilities of performing a wedding where families stem from different religious and/or ethnic cultures and traditions. I have also published in *Salt Lake City Magazine* on the different styles of weddings that a mountain venue makes possible. I love officiating weddings because they fill me with life’s joys, an important balance in a minister’s duties that also extend to helping families in times of loss.

Couples tend to feel anxious about fees which is only natural since they get sucked into the vortex of the wedding industry. In trying to be accessible to couples, my fees have remained the same for the past eight years. I can’t remember a time when fees precluded a couple from asking for my services. If finance is a worry, talk to me. We’ll figure it out. The “standard” fee fluctuates from \$300 - 425 depending on the location; from First Unitarian Church to Deer Valley. It has also been my privilege to officiate in several of Utah’s National Parks and out of state as well. A separate fee will be agreed upon commensurate with travel.

If you are reading this page, you are undoubtedly in search of someone to officiate a wedding. Congratulations on your decision to marry. I hope I can help elevate your ceremony to the level of meaning that you have intended all along.

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