

spotlight on vermont's finest



FOR ANNIE ALEXANDER, WHO RUNS her own interior and landscape design business from her home in Williamstown, Vermont, officiating at weddings is technically a part-time job. But since becoming a justice of

the peace in Stowe 10 years ago, Alexander has presided at more than 500 Vermont weddings, and from Spring to Fall her weekends are booked solid with ceremonies to perform. (Winter is *slightly* less busy.)

Calling herself “The Parsonne,” the feminine form of *parson*, Alexander honors a proud tradition. “In the olden days,” she

says, “the parson would go town to town at different times of the year to marry people and perform baptisms. That’s sort of what I’m doing by traveling for ceremonies throughout the state.”

Alexander typically connects with couples two or three times before their wedding day—either in person or via email—to help design a ceremony that is personally meaningful and honors family traditions. As an ordained “non-denominational celebrant,” Alexander is able to incorporate elements of religious traditions, as well, often mixing elements for couples with diverse backgrounds.

The rewards of the job are endless. Having presided at ceremonies ranging from weddings with 500 guests to “planned elopements” with just the bride, the groom, and a photographer, Alexander says that regardless of the particulars, “they are always happy occasions.” She advises couples to give their choice of officiant as much thought as they give to their dress and menu, making sure to find someone who shares their vision months, not weeks, before the wedding date. “The ceremony is what gets you married,” she says. “Don’t underestimate the importance of the person who will pronounce you man and wife.”

