

WEDDING POLICY

Statement on Christian Marriage: Weddings at First Presbyterian Church are a Service of Worship and include most of the elements found in any worship service in this church. We believe that Christian marriage is a covenant between two people who are in covenant with God. Wedding policies shall, therefore, follow the criteria established by the Book of Order.

Who may marry here:

- Members of First Presbyterian Church. Member fees apply; however, if the member has belonged to the church for less than one year, then non-member fees apply.
- Children or grandchildren of members of the First Presbyterian Church may marry here. Member fees apply; however, if the member has belonged to the church for less than one year, then non-member fees apply.
- Members of other PCUSA churches may submit an application with a letter of recommendation from their pastor. Non-member fees apply, and only one non-member wedding may be scheduled per month.
- Same sex marriage ceremonies are not performed in the church, but members, their children, and their grandchildren may have a ceremony in the church seeking God's blessing of their covenant unions.

Scheduling:

- Only one wedding may be scheduled in the same weekend. Weddings may be scheduled on Fridays or Saturdays.
- Weddings or rehearsals may not be scheduled at the following times: Sundays, unless it is part of regular Worship Service, Saturday before Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday. The Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Week, Christmas Week, or New Years Day, during Azalea and River Festivals, or any day when the Church is closed.
- One non-member wedding per month is permitted.

Officiating Minister:

A member of the clergy staff of First Presbyterian Church conducts all weddings. You may ask any one of them to conduct the service. Any visiting minister may assist only by invitation of the Session.

Premarital Pastoral Care

Couples will be contacted by the pastor after a wedding has been approved with information about scheduling an appointment for premarital counseling and given contact information for the musician.

Music

- The Director of Music shall provide music at all weddings. The services of other organists may be used only with his permission. In the event he is not available, he will assist in securing an organist.
- The selection of music sung or played shall be appropriate to the sacred nature of the wedding service of worship. The Director of Music of First Presbyterian Church shall give final approval of all music.
- The Director of Music shall hire soloists and instrumentalists. Requests for specific soloists and instrumentalists may be made during the music consultation. Soloist and instrumentalist fees are not included in the church's wedding fee, and will be paid by the bride or her family.
- Soloists must arrange for rehearsal time with the organist.

Wedding Coordinator:

One of this church's wedding coordinators and an assistant coordinator is required at all weddings. The lead wedding coordinator will contact the bride when the wedding is approved to discuss wedding coordinators. One of the wedding coordinators will be assigned and will contact the bride about scheduling an appointment. The wedding coordinator will inform the wedding party of all church regulations pertaining to the service and will coordinate the rehearsal and the wedding. Any outside bridal consultants will work under the direction of the church's wedding coordinator and must obey all church policies.

Decoration:

Because the furnishings and appointments of the Sanctuary and the Chapel form a beautiful setting of reverence and quiet elegance, simplicity of decoration is required.

Photography and Videography:

- Flash photography is not allowed (by either professional photographer or guests) from the time guests begin to arrive until after the recessional.
- Videography is permitted in the Sanctuary from the balcony only, provided no additional lighting is used. Since there is no unobtrusive way for videography or photography in the Chapel, it is not permitted.
- All photographers and videographers will work under the direction of the wedding coordinator, and will sign a document confirming that they have read and understood the church's photography and video policies.

Church Reception:

If a church reception is planned, arrangements must be made with the church office for use of the church equipment or personnel.

Other Items to Observe:

- Unity candles and aisle cloths are not permitted.
- Smoking is not permitted in any of the church buildings.
- Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the church premises.
- The scattering of flower petals, potpourri, rice, confetti, glitter, or anything else is not allowed on church property.
- A guest register is not permitted at the wedding service.
- Every wedding and reception shall utilize the services of the church sexton.
- Couples being married at First Presbyterian Church are responsible for the actions of their wedding party.
- Wedding programs, if used, must follow the approved format, and must be approved by the officiating minister, the musician, and the wedding coordinator.

No less than two weeks prior to the wedding rehearsal, couples must bring their marriage license and one check made payable to First Presbyterian Church covering the wedding fees to the church office.

Fees: See attached

**(Approved by Worship Committee 3-8-15;
Revised by Session 6-28-2015)**

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