

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA
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**
One who has been a member of this church for no less than one year prior to the wedding date.
- **Children or grandchildren of members of the First Presbyterian Church**
- **Members of other PC(USA) churches** may submit an application with a letter of recommendation from their pastor, but non-member policies and fees apply.
- **New Members (those who have not been a member for one year) may marry here, at the discretion of the pastor, but non-member policies and fees apply.**

Scheduling:

- No more than one wedding may be scheduled in the same weekend.
- No weddings or rehearsals may be scheduled at the follow 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 is permitted once a month.*

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 must initiate an appointment for premarital pastoral care with one of the ministers within thirty (30) days following approval for their wedding.

Music

- The Director of Music shall provide music at all weddings. The services of other organists may be used only with his permission. In such cases he shall receive his usual fee. 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.
- It shall be the bride's responsibility to provide soloists' sheet music no later than one (1) month prior to the wedding.
- Soloists must arrange for rehearsal time with the organist.

Continued

Approved by Session 11-3-2010

*revision approved by Session 2-1-2012

Wedding Coordinator:

One of this church's wedding coordinators is required at all weddings. She will inform the wedding party of all church regulations pertaining to the service and will coordinate the rehearsal and the wedding. No outside consultants are needed or expected for the ceremony.

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 in the Chapel, **it is not permitted.**

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 inside church buildings.
- 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.

No less than one week 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.