

**Guidelines  
For  
Christian  
Weddings**

**WESLEY UNITED  
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“Those whom God has joined together  
let no one put asunder.”

[Mark 10:9]

## **To the Bride and Groom**

The members of Wesley United Methodist Church congratulate both of you and extend their best wishes on your upcoming wedding. We are glad that you have chosen to have a church wedding. In order to accommodate everyone's best interests, we have developed these "Guidelines for Christian Weddings." Our hope is that, as you plan your wedding, these guidelines will be helpful.

### **Scheduling**

Make your plans well in advance for the use of the church facilities. You may make all your arrangement through the minister. Weddings should be scheduled no less than four (4) months in advance.

### **Officiating**

The pastor of the church should be asked to officiate at all weddings. If the services of other clergy are desired, this request should be made through the minister.

## **Premarital Counseling**

The pastor is charged with the responsibility of counseling with couples to be married. Usually this requires five (5) or six (6) meetings. This is in keeping with *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*.

## **Music**

As a courtesy, the church organist should be asked to play at all weddings. If another organist is desired, please let the minister know as soon as possible.

The organist should be consulted well in advance of the wedding. If other special music is desired e.g., vocal accompaniment, special instrumental, arrangements must be made with both the minister and organist.

All music used during the wedding service should be selected in keeping with the understanding that a wedding is a service of Christian worship and must be approved by the organist and/or the minister.

## **Decorations and Traditions**

Any decorations used in the sanctuary should be tasteful and simple. Please do not use nails, thumbtacks, tape or wires on the pews or altar ware, i.e., the candelabra, brass candle holders, etc.

Freestanding floor candelabra are available for use. If you choose to use them, a contribution to the church for the purchase of the candles should be arranged through the minister. There are a total of fourteen (14) candles on the two (2) candelabra, so a donation to cover the cost of the candles would be \$24.00, payable to the church.

Altar flowers or other flowers should be discussed with the minister.

Due to National laws rice and birdseed it is no longer able to be used at weddings. Bubbles are to be used to greet the couple outside following the service.

If a *Wedding or Unity Candle* is used, the couple is responsible for the purchase of these candles. Please remove decorations. After (5) days they will be disposed of.

## **Photographing and Videotaping**

It is now common practice that no flash photographs are taken during the wedding ceremony. Available light or time exposure photographs may be taken from the back of the sanctuary. Please advise your guests of this. If your guests wish to take pictures, they are welcome to take them during the “photography session” which usually follows immediately after the service.

Videotaping may be done from the back of the sanctuary during the service, using available light.

## **Rehearsal**

The officiating minister will conduct the rehearsal. There is no need for a “wedding consultant” to be present. When you schedule the date of the wedding, the date and time of the rehearsal will be schedule as well.

*The Marriage License* should be given to the minister at the time of rehearsal

## **Wedding Reception**

If the wedding reception is to be held at the church, arrangements must be made as soon as possible.

No alcoholic beverages may be served on the premises. We also have a “no smoking policy” which must be observed.

### **Honoraria, fees and Contributions**

**The Use of Facilities:** There is no charge for members or children of members of the church. When neither the bride nor the groom nor their parent(s) are members of the church, the following schedule will apply for the use of the facilities.

#### WEDDING ONLY:

Non – Members \$275.00

#### WEDDING AND USE OF HALL AND KITCHEN:

Non – Members \$525.00

#### CANDELABRA:

For the fourteen (14) candles: \$24.00

CUSTODIAL FEES: \$75.00

Fees are nonrefundable and should be paid to the Wesley U.M.C. on the night of the rehearsal.

## PASTORAL SERVICES:

A common question at weddings is “How much should we give to the minister?” While there is no set amount, an honorarium is usually customary. The honorarium should reflect the hours of time, including counseling, rehearsal and the wedding itself.

### Other Fees

Organist (separate check) \$200.00

Minister (separate check) \$150.00

### **We Rejoice with You at the Time of Your Wedding**

*May God richly bless you as you plan for this important day in your lives. If we at the church can be of any additional help, please let us know.*

{Updated September 16, 2016}