

# **WEDDING GUIDE**

Marriage is one of the most important steps that two people can take. It is a sacred event signifying a covenant made between the bride and groom and God. We ask couples to take seriously the spiritual significance of being married in the church. It is a sacred occasion symbolizing the beauty, majesty and power of God. We pray that as you enter this covenant, you will keep God at the center of everything you do and continue your commitment to Christ and His Church by faithful and active service after you are married. Getting married in the church is not a fad. It signifies your willingness to live a Christian life and to be in covenant with the faith community.

The wedding service you are planning has special significance because it is conducted in a church. A marriage ceremony is an act of worship. The guests will not only gather to celebrate your marriage, but give thanks for God's blessings. The ceremony is a sacred service of worship and is to be conducted with integrity, sanctity and dignity.

This page offers guidelines to couples planning their wedding. Questions about these guidelines may be referred to the Senior Pastor of Trinity-First United Methodist Church.

## **PASTORAL INTERVIEWS AND CONCERNS**

To avoid scheduling conflicts, couples should meet with the Senior Pastor before any public announcement of the wedding. The Senior Pastor will counsel the couple regarding their readiness for marriage, the meaning of Christian marriage, and their plans and expectations concerning the ceremony itself. The number of sessions varies according to need.

The Senior Pastor will ordinarily conduct all weddings. A request for a guest minister to participate in the services should be directed to the Senior Pastor of Trinity-First United Methodist Church. The Senior Pastor will make all final decisions regarding the nature of the wedding ceremony.

## **FACILITIES**

Weddings are held in two areas of the church:

Sanctuary- The Sanctuary has a seating capacity of approximately 450.

Chapel- The Chapel has a seating capacity of approximately 50. The Chapel is used for small, informal weddings.

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photographers generally take pictures of the wedding party before and after the ceremony. Picture taking is forbidden while the vows are in progress. Videos are permitted during the entire service. Photographers

should not, under any circumstances, impede the movement or flow of the wedding service once it has begun. It is the responsibility of the ushers to inform guests to refrain from taking pictures during the ceremony.

**FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS**

Floral decorations and bows are acceptable, if desired. The use of nails, tacks, or clamps on church furnishings is not permitted. The use of candles of any type must be approved by the Senior Pastor. Masking tape may be used; however, pew clips are preferred. No other tape is permitted. All masking tape, candles, flowers, decorations, etc. must be removed immediately following the ceremony. Delivery and set-up of the flowers and other decorations is ordinarily scheduled during the rehearsal or during the hour prior to the ceremony itself.

Trinity-First United Methodist Church will provide up to four candelabras and a Unity candle holder for the ceremony, if desired, but couples must provide their own candles. All candles must be driplless. Each candelabra requires 7 (seven) 10” driplless tapers.

**MARRIAGE LICENSE**

The Marriage License should be given to the pastor one hour before the wedding ceremony.

**MUSIC**

Trinity-First United Methodist Church organists and soloists are available for weddings. Outside soloists may be used, but outside organists or other musicians requiring the use of our instruments must be approved by the Senior Pastor in advance of the ceremony before being allowed to play. All soloists and musicians are to be present at the wedding rehearsal.

**FEE STRUCTURE**

Reserving the wedding date on the church calendar requires a \$50.00 down payment once the date has been approved by the Senior Pastor. All fees must be paid in full prior to the wedding.

**SANCTUARY CEREMONY - MEMBERS**

	Additional Information	Price
Sanctuary Usage	Includes utilities, candelabra, sound and light operator, microphones, flower stands	\$150.00 first 2 hours; \$50.00 each additional hour
Custodial Fee	Includes opening facility ONE HOUR prior to service, cleaning facility	\$50.00
Organist		\$125.00
Minister	** By custom this is at the discretion of the groom	**
Sound Technician	Required any time microphones, musical instruments, CD’s, etc. are involved which must be connected to the sound system.	\$50.00

### CHAPEL CEREMONY - MEMBERS

	Additional Information	Price
Chapel Usage	Includes utilities, candelabra, sound and light operator, microphones, flower stands	\$25.00 per hour
Custodial Fee	Includes opening facility ONE HOUR prior to service, cleaning facility	\$50.00
Organist		\$75.00
Minister	** By custom this is at the discretion of the groom	**

### SANCTUARY CEREMONY – NON MEMBERS

	Additional Information	Price
Sanctuary Usage	Includes utilities, candelabra, sound and light operator, microphones, flower stands	\$300.00 first 2 hours; \$75.00 each additional hour
Custodial Fee	Includes opening facility ONE HOUR prior to service, cleaning facility	\$50.00
Organist		\$150.00
Minister	** By custom this is at the discretion of the groom	**
Sound Technician	Required any time microphones, musical instruments, CD's, etc. are involved which must be connected to the sound system.	\$50.00

### CHAPEL CEREMONY- NON-MEMBERS

	Additional Information	Price
Chapel Usage	Includes utilities, candelabra, sound and light operator, microphones, flower stands	\$100.00 first two hours; \$45.00 each additional hour
Custodial Fee	Includes opening facility ONE HOUR prior to service, cleaning facility	\$50.00
Organist		\$75.00
Minister	** By custom this is at the discretion of the groom	**

