

Wedding Policy

We at Grace United Methodist Church are glad that you have chosen to have your wedding in our church. Your choice of the church as the setting for your wedding is evidence that you desire a sacred Christian marriage service. In order to enhance that spirit of worship and to facilitate arrangements for you and the church staff, the following church policy governs weddings in Grace Church.

There are two levels of fees for a wedding. A member fee is based on active church membership of bride, groom or other family members. All others are considered nonmember, and unless there are extraordinary extenuating circumstances, they will be charged a non-member fee.

Minister

1. The date and hour of both the wedding rehearsal and the ceremony are to be cleared through the minister (in consultation with the church office) and entered on the church calendar.
2. The minister is in charge of all wedding rehearsals and ceremonies. If the bridal couple desires to have a minister other than the appointed minister of Grace, we will extend an invitation to that minister.
3. Prior to the wedding, premarital counseling with the minister is required for each couple. All questions concerning the order of the service may be asked at this time.
4. No rehearsal or wedding will be conducted when any member of the wedding party is under the influence of alcohol. The minister has the authority to cancel a rehearsal or wedding for any violation of this policy.
5. The marriage license must be given to the minister at the wedding rehearsal.

Director of Operations

1. Once your date has been decided and placed on the calendar by the Director of Operations, you will be asked to meet with the Director of Operations and/or a wedding director, at which time you will receive a packet of wedding information. In this packet you will find information sheets, and a fee breakdown. Please read all this information for you will be asked to review this information and sign a form indicating that you are aware of our policies and procedures. Completed forms along with any applicable checks should be in the church office the week before the wedding.
2. The Director of Operations will be your contact person up until a month prior to the wedding date. At that point you'll begin to work closely with your wedding director. She will attend the rehearsal and the ceremony.

Wedding Director

1. Grace Church has well-trained wedding directors to assist the minister with the rehearsal and the ceremony. The directors are assigned by rotation, unless circumstances dictate otherwise. The director will contact the bride a month before the wedding.
2. Prior to the rehearsal, the bride will meet with the director at the church and will bring with her the completed Wedding Information Form at that time.
3. At least one Grace wedding director will be present for all rehearsals and ceremonies. If an outside director is desired, they will work in cooperation with the assigned wedding director from Grace.

Music

1. The church organist is in charge of all wedding music and is expected to play for all weddings. If the organist is not available, the bride will be consulted and another organist will be obtained by the church.

2. The wedding music should be consistent with the sacred spirit of the wedding service. This includes any instrumentalists or soloists which must be approved by the Grace Church organist.

3. Taped music and additional sound systems are not permitted.

Decorations

1. Only the paraments, cross, candles and flowers in altar vases are to be used on the altar. These appointments may include the church's pair of single brass candlesticks, the pair of floor standing seven branch candelabra and a pair of seven branch candelabra that sit on the altar. A unity candle stand is also available. All candles (except the unity candle) are provided by the church. The altar guild will set up the altar area according to your supplied information.

2. If our flower calendar has an open date, the flowers may be left for the Sunday worship service. Flowers can then be arranged in the church liners. If you are taking the flowers with you, please have the florist use disposable liners. The total height of vase and flowers must not be higher than the cross (32"). Center arrangements may not be used.

3. No tacks, pins, nails, glue or staples may be used to fasten any decoration onto furnishings or buildings. No greenery or decorations may be used on the kneeling rail.

4. A florist may furnish a white aisle runner if desired. Live flower petals may not be scattered on the runner or on the church floor.

5. No furniture may be moved in or out of the sanctuary. Spotlights and additional accessories such as urns are not permitted in the sanctuary.

6. All decorations must be removed from the building.

Dressing Room

1. The Wesleyan Class Room is available to the bride and her attendants for dressing. The wedding director has a key to this room if there is a need to lock it.

Other Policies

1. No weddings are scheduled for the Saturday prior to Easter and the month of December unless special approval is granted by the Minister along with the Worship Committee.

2. No intoxicating beverages or substances may be brought or consumed on church property.

3. Smoking in the church is not permitted.

4. All video recording must be done from the balcony.

Church Reception

1. Only members will be allowed to use the Fellowship Hall for their reception.

2. The kitchen may be used only for serving purposes.

3. Caterers must furnish silver, crystal, dishes, linens and paper products. All litter must be removed from Fellowship Hall and kitchen.

4. Bird seed rather than rice is requested for throwing outside the church.

5. The church assumes no responsibility for valuables left during the ceremony.

6. The repair of any damage to church property by the member of the wedding party or guest shall be the responsibility of the bride and groom.

7. Church bells may be rung following the ceremony under the direction of the wedding director.

Expenses

1. An expense sheet is included with your packet. A deposit is required when you put the wedding on the calendar. Please read carefully and have the remainder of the balance into the office at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

Photography

1. The bride is required to provide the name of the photographer before the wedding and be responsible for receiving a copy of the church policy on photography. The photographer should meet the wedding director in the narthex of the sanctuary on the day of the wedding.

2. **No flash pictures may be taken in the sanctuary by anyone during the processional or the ceremony.** The bride will make arrangements with the photographer as to whether pictures will be made prior to or after the ceremony.

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