

FISHERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WEDDING GUIDE

OUR EXPECTATIONS

*Worship Attendance - Just as there is no better "seedbed" for Christian love to grow than in the give and take of the marriage relationship, we believe that there is no better "seedbed" for a marriage to grow than in the local congregation. Therefore, it is our hope that you will have been active in some congregation, if not this one, for the six months prior to your marriage. (By active, we mean attending on a regular basis and participating in the life of the church.)

*Pastoral Counseling - Throughout the planning process, the officiating Pastor will meet with you for a few counseling sessions.

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING:

*Secure your date at least six months in advance of your wedding - The date and time must be cleared, both with the officiating pastor and with the church office. With a busy schedule of church activities, this is extremely important. Please note that until the church receives your deposit, the date is not guaranteed. After 10 days of your request, if no deposit has been received, the date is considered available for others to book.

*Contact the Pastor - The officiating pastor requires time with all couples, personally meeting with them to plan for counseling sessions, and to plan for your wedding itself. All weddings in the church are to be performed by one of the resident pastors. Other pastors may be invited to assist, but this must be arranged through the officiating pastor. Any exceptions to this must be approved by the Senior Pastor.

*The rehearsal will be scheduled by the officiating Pastor when you first meet together - Impress on those involved the importance of being prompt as another rehearsal may be scheduled for the same evening. Please do not schedule the rehearsal dinner until you have scheduled the rehearsal.

*Our Wedding Coordinator will be of great help to you, and we require that you use her services - She will:

- *Talk to you prior to the wedding to answer any questions. (You can also call the church office with your questions, if you cannot reach the wedding coordinator)
- *Take care of the wedding arrangements with regard to the sanctuary, making sure the candelabras, kneeler, etc. are in place.
- *Help with instructing all participants at the rehearsal.
- *Open and close the church on your wedding day, make sure that lights, heat, air conditioning, etc. are on and adjusted, and cue the bridal party at the proper times

GENERAL POLICIES:

*Use Of The Building - Because the church building is a sacred space, reserved for the worship of God, there shall be no smoking in the building, no alcoholic beverages or chemical substances are permitted in the building or anywhere on the church property. All participants are asked to refrain from the use of any alcoholic beverages prior to the rehearsal and the ceremony, in consideration of the holy aspects of a Christian marriage. Any member of the wedding party who does not respect this policy will be asked to leave the premises. Beyond this, we ask and hope that those using our building will have an attitude of respect and reverence for the property. Unfortunately, sometimes this respect is not observed, and so we must request that at the time you schedule your wedding, you submit a deposit to cover any damage or extra clean up costs. All or part of this will be returned within two weeks after your wedding. Note that this deposit is in addition to all other fees.

*Music - We encourage the use of wedding music that focuses upon God and emphasizes the faith of the Christian community rather than romantic love or sentimentality. You will need to consult our church organist regarding your wedding music. The organist will be able to help you with your selections of music, and must approve them. Requests for music which we do not have must be provided by you at your own expense. Our organist will be available to play for the rehearsal and the wedding service. No visiting organists are permitted to use our organ without being first cleared through our own organist. Should you want other instrumental or vocal music, the organist may be able to help by recommending competent musicians. The organist will also schedule a separate rehearsal at a time convenient for all such musicians.

*Flowers & Decorations - These are your responsibility. While decorations should be adequate, they should not clutter the chancel area or overshadow the ceremony. Please be sure to tell your florist about our policies:

- *No decorations shall be affixed to any wall, pew, or furnishing with tacks, pins, tape, or any other adhesive.
- *Only dripless candles may be used, and all candles must have a globe over them or floor protectors under them.
- *No balloons are allowed in the sanctuary or reception hall.
- *If live flower petals are to be scattered down the main aisle, you must use an aisle runner. The length of this aisle is 100 feet.
- *None of the Chancel furniture, communion rails, nor piano are to be moved.

*The church has available for your use - a kneeling bench, two seven-candle candelabras with candles, 2 large altar candles, and candle lighters. Aisle runners, pew candles, unity candles, greenery and flowers must be secured by the wedding party.

*Photography/Videography - All pictures are to be taken before or after the ceremony. There will be no photographs during the ceremony except those taken by a professional photographer from an inconspicuous location. All video photography is to be taken from an inconspicuous place in the sanctuary. The video camera must be stationary, and, if it is at the front of the sanctuary, it must be unmanned.

*Marriage License - The Indiana marriage license form is in two portions. The first portion of basic, biographical information should be filled out by the couple prior to handing the form to the pastor. We request that the license be brought to the church one week before the wedding. The marriage license must be in the hands of the pastor in order for the wedding to proceed.

*Bulletins - If you wish to have "programs," you will need to provide these yourself.

*Childcare - If you wish to use a room for child care, you must make prior arrangements for the room. The church will arrange for child-care attendants for an additional fee. Children are not to be in any of the classrooms unattended.

*Dressing Rooms - Ladies may use Room 119 and women's restroom next to it. Men are asked to come dressed for the wedding and meet in the narthex (large area outside the sanctuary).

*Valuables - Valuables should not be left anywhere in the church while the wedding is in progress. The church cannot be held responsible should a loss occur. We recommend that you give all purses, cameras, etc. to a family member for safe keeping.

*Send-Off - Rice and confetti may not be used anywhere on the premises. We suggest the use of birdseed or bubbles, instead. Birdseed is not to be thrown indoors. Please wait until the bride and groom have reached the bottom of the stairs before throwing the birdseed. We strongly discourage the release of helium balloons for ecological reasons.

*Clean-up - You must be sure to clean-up all rooms used before you leave the building, as the custodian must clean the church and have it fully ready for worship on Sunday morning. This includes decorations and any other items that you have brought in.

Fishers United Methodist Church is truly delighted that you are considering having your wedding at our Church.

If you have any questions about any of the above information, our wedding coordinator would be more than happy to speak with you. Please contact Joyce McKinney at weddingcoordinator@fishersumc.org or you can call the church office at 849-1805.