

University Presbyterian Church

Your Christian Marriage

Christian marriage is understood as "a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family." In the Reformed Christian tradition, marriage is understood as "a covenant in which God has an active part, and which the community of faith publically witnesses and acknowledges." (Presbyterian Directory for Worship)

Thus, when asking the Pastor of this church to conduct a marriage ceremony, you are asking for a worship service in which God's blessings are acknowledged and sought. Participating in such a service demonstrates that you have a vital faith in God and a sincere desire to understand and live up to the meaning of Christian marriage.

It is a privilege to share in this meaningful moment with you.

Pre-Marital Counseling Sessions

All couples who wish to be married at University Presbyterian Church must have one or more conferences with the Pastor as they prepare for marriage.

The Service

The wedding ceremony is a worship service of joy and reverence. The Pastor will plan with the couple approaches to the service designed to express your particular relationship to one another and God.

Couples will work with the Pastor to design their service, making sure that the music and vows reflect the importance of this event.

The Staff

It is expected that the Pastor and the Director of Music of the church will officiate at your wedding. Permission may be granted by the staff of the church for other people to be involved. The Pastor is solely in charge of the wedding.

In case the Pastor is not available, the Session will designate an officiating minister.

Seating Capacity

The church sanctuary comfortably seats 300 people. It is recommended that 2-4 people serve as ushers.

Bulletins

The church office is willing to print bulletins (the order of worship) for you, or you may arrange to print those yourselves. Drafts of all bulletins must be approved by the Pastor before printing.

The Rehearsal

The Pastor is in charge of all details of the rehearsal. Promptness in arriving for the 45 minute rehearsal is important. Everyone involved in the wedding should attend. Couples need to bring to the rehearsal:

1. the marriage license
2. the check to cover church fees
3. the wedding bulletins

Church Reception

You may hold your reception in the church building. Reid Hall can accommodate seating for 150 people. The Auditorium seats 75. The Holzwarth Room is more suited for standing receptions with "finger food."

Music

The purpose of music in the Christian wedding is to direct attention to God and enhance the beauty of the service. The choice of music is to be discussed with the Pastor and the Director of Music.

Flowers and Decorations

It is suggested that there be no more than three floral arrangements in the sanctuary. These may be taken with you or left for the Sunday morning worship. You may also decorate the ends of the pews. No aisle runner is necessary, as the aisle is carpeted. The aisle is 56 feet long.

Photographs

To honor the nature of the worship service, photographers may take photos from the front of the sanctuary only as the wedding party processes down the aisle. After the processional, photos or videos should be taken from the rear of the sanctuary or from the balcony. Additional photographs may be taken at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Rice

No rice or birdseed should be thrown on church property. You may instead use flower petals or bubbles.

Fees and Honorariums

We ask that the costs be paid to University Presbyterian Church in the following way: 50% at the time the church is reserved, the balance at the rehearsal.

	<i>member</i>	<i>non-member</i>
Sanctuary:	no charge	\$500
Pastor:*	\$350	\$350
Organist:	\$250	\$250
Custodian:	\$100	\$100

* When using an officiant other than the Pastor of UPC, the church requires the use of our wedding coordinator: \$250

Reception Fees:

Reid Hall or Auditorium	\$100	\$175
Holzwarth Room	\$50	\$100

Bulletins:

\$15.00 per 100

Administrative fee \$25.00

One check can be made out to:
University Presbyterian Church
3330 Main St.
Buffalo, NY 14214
(716) 836-7660