



Wedding Policies

INTRODUCTION:

We are delighted that you have chosen to have your wedding conducted using one of our pastoral staff and/or our church. This gives evidence to the importance of God's blessing upon your marriage. If you worship regularly with this congregation, you understand that you have a number of choices regarding clergy personnel, style of ceremony, music and liturgical alternatives. If you do not attend this church regularly, this publication may help you with these decisions.

SCHEDULING:

It is customary to approach the pastor you wish to perform your ceremony to verify his/her availability on a certain date. To reserve the building for your wedding please check with the church office regarding available dates. You should clear your date as soon as possible to prevent other conflicts. In scheduling, be sure to mention when you will be using the church for setting up for the wedding, what rooms you will need and when you plan to finish your use of the building. Once again, reading through this publication will help you "think through" some of these details.

CLERGY:

If you wish to have one of our clergy perform a wedding at another church facility, we will comply; however, certain requirements must be met. To conform to a sense of professional ethics, we prefer that you first secure tentative permission from that church's pastor and/or governing body, and then secure the confirmation of that date with the minister of your choice, who will then contact the church for final permission.

If you wish to have a minister from another church perform your wedding ceremony in our building, we ask for a reversal of this procedure: contact us for tentative approval (date verification, understanding of procedures, etc.); then contact the clergy of your choice for final arrangements.

REGULATIONS:

This congregation does not believe in legislating morality and has no desire to make judgments upon the beliefs or practices of others. We do, however, have a clear understanding of our own position regarding the teaching of the Bible as it relates to the affairs of men and women. Therefore, we ask in all kindness, that you honor our requests regarding the use of the building, which we have dedicated to the glory of God.

Non-use of Alcohol or Tobacco - The use of alcohol or tobacco of any form is restricted while on the property of the First Church of God.

Non-use of Rice - Because of difficulty of clean up and environmental concerns, we do not allow the practice of throwing rice on the premises of the First Church of God. Use of bird seed is permissible and a suggested alternative.

COUNSELING:

The Pastoral Staff of our congregation will not perform any wedding without proper pre-marital counseling. Most premarital counseling involves four to six sessions, approximately 45 minutes each. The purpose of these sessions is not to make judgments upon the success of any marriage, but rather to provide insight into possible pitfalls in your relationship and how these pitfalls might be avoided and/or handled. Premarital counseling is the only tool that clergy can use in the face of rising divorce rates. Whether you decide to use our facility for your wedding or not, we urge you to take full advantage of premarital counseling that is designed for your benefit. A very reasonable fee is charged to non-members for this service.

CEREMONY:

A number of liturgical formats may be used, and “personalized”, according to your own wishes. As long as your choices and preferences align themselves to the requirements of the law and the teaching of the Bible, our clergy are open to your choices. Music choices should be in good taste and in consideration that the ceremony is a Christian wedding.

AVAILABLE ACCESSORIES:

The church has (2) adjustable candelabra; (1) unity candle holder; and (8) pew end candle holders which may be used for your service. Candles are not furnished, and must be provided by you. While these items are available to you to make your wedding ceremony more special, they must be set up by church personnel.

Should you decide that you wish to use our church worship center for your ceremony, you may also wish to use the nursery and adjoining restroom(s) for a bride and bridesmaids preparation/dressing room. The groom and male attendants may use the downstairs restroom and/or downstairs Prayer Room for a Preparation/Dressing Room.

Any other accessories for your ceremony must be provided from outside sources.

WEDDING FEES:

Following is a list of charges for which you will be responsible. These fees should be paid in full no later than two (2) weeks before your wedding. If the fees are not received by the time of the wedding rehearsal, the congregation's governing board has directed the pastor(s) to refrain from performing the wedding ceremony. All fees include custodial costs.

	Member	Non-Member
Use of Sanctuary	\$75	\$150
Use of Fellowship Hall	\$75	\$200
Pastor (including counseling)	\$150	\$500
Organist/Pianist	\$100	\$100
Sound Technician	\$75	\$100
Suggested fee for Musicians/Soloists	\$75-\$100	\$75-\$100

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF POLICIES:

Please sign the ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF POLICIES. This helps clear up any problems that may arise in regards to the said Wedding Policies of the First Church of God, Munster, Indiana.

REVISED August, 2007

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF POLICIES:

By signing below, we acknowledge that we have received the First Church of God, Munster, Indiana Wedding Policies and have read and understand these policies.

Groom _____ Date _____

Bride _____ Date _____