

Northeast United Methodist Church
Wedding Policy
2006

Date: Set your wedding date in consultation with the pastor to assure that the church facilities are available and that the pastor is available to preside at the rehearsal and wedding. The Administrative Assistant will then include your wedding activities, such as rehearsal, rehearsal dinner, wedding, and reception, on the church calendar.

Counseling: Contact our pastor at least four months prior to your planned wedding date to set a time for meeting with both of you for counseling. Counseling, usually four one-hour sessions, is a requirement of our church. All sessions must be completed before the wedding can be held.

Pastor: Our pastor will officiate at all wedding ceremonies in this church. If another pastor is requested, that person may assist and must be invited by our pastor. Only with the pastor's prior approval will another minister officiate without our pastor present.

Ceremony: The United Methodist Service of Christian Marriage from The United Methodist Book of Worship is the one used for wedding ceremonies held at NEUMC. If the Sacrament of Holy Communion is desired, it must be offered to all persons present rather than to the bride and groom exclusively. The service is personalized for each couple by their choice of scripture readings, hymns, and other music.

Music: Music in the church, including wedding music, is a form of worship. Hymns and other sacred music best suit the character of a Christian wedding. Arrangements for wedding music are made with the pastor and the church pianist and/or organist as soon as the wedding date is confirmed. If someone other than the church pianist and/or organist is requested, arrangements must be approved by the pastor. Our church pianist and organist should receive a fee of \$175.00 (each if both are used) for both the rehearsal and wedding ceremony. If the musician must purchase music for the wedding he/she should be reimbursed for the purchase.

Decorations: Floral candle arrangements should be kept simple. No decorations are to be placed in front of the altar table. Two flower stands are available to display floral arrangements. No tacks, nails, staples, tape, nor anything harmful to the walls, furniture, or carpet may be used. Candles should be dripless and are to be extinguished immediately following the ceremony. All decorative items must be removed from the church immediately following the ceremony. Removal is the responsibility of the bride and groom. NEUMC is not responsible for rented items left in our building.

Wedding for non-members: Weddings are a service of Christian worship. The bride and groom are expected to be a part of a Christian community through which they can express their Christian faith and in which they can serve Christ and others. After consultation with the couple the pastor will determine if they are committed to a Christian marriage and will discuss their church membership. Normally, weddings will not be conducted for non-members.

Fees:

Pianist	\$175.00 (includes playing for rehearsal and wedding)
Organist	\$175.00 (includes playing for rehearsal and wedding)
	If both the pianist and organist play together the fee is \$175.00 each. It is not required that both be used.
Janitorial Fee	\$100.00 (for sanctuary, bathrooms, and dressing areas)
	\$25.00 (additional fee if the kitchen is used)
Non-members	\$300.00 (This building use fee is charged to non-members if, at the pastor's discretion, a non-member is married at NEUMC.)
Pastor	There is no fee for pastoral services. A monetary gift is at the discretion of the couple.

Miscellaneous:

- Wedding directors are not necessary. A member of our congregation will serve as the wedding director for both the rehearsal and the ceremony. There is no fee for this service provided by our Worship Committee.
- No furnishings, including the center table in the narthex and all furnishings in the chancel area, may be moved without the consent of the pastor. All tables and chairs must be returned to their original location following the wedding activities.
- Weddings will not be scheduled during Holy Week nor on certain other holidays.
- Smoking is not allowed in the buildings.
- Alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the campus.
- The throwing of rice and confetti on the church property is prohibited. Bird seed is permitted.
- No flash photography may be taken during the ceremony. Please ask family members to refrain from taking individual photographs. Video recordings made unobtrusively and with the utmost discretion, are permitted. Please instruct your photographer/videographer to arrive at least one hour before the wedding to clear the placement of equipment with the pastor.

- Outside caterers are welcome. They may use our kitchen facilities but no equipment is provided by the church. The caterer is responsible for cleaning the kitchen and leaving it in its original condition. The reception hall in rooms 101 and 102 may be used for receptions. The courtyard may also be used, weather permitting.
- These policies also apply to services for the renewal of wedding vows.