

# ***Getting Married at Princeton United Methodist Church***

Christian marriage presupposes Christian faith on the part of at least one of the participants. Those who wish to celebrate their union in the context of the Christian faith are welcome to be married at Princeton UMC.

## ***Who May Be Married at Princeton UMC***

Weddings are performed at Princeton UMC for members and non-members and for all persons of all denominational backgrounds.

**Regular worship:** We strongly urge that all persons planning to be married at Princeton UMC worship *regularly* at our Church. (*Regularly means at least once a month!*) This applies to members and non-members. The purpose of this request is to ensure a measure of familiarity with the pastor as well as the building and atmosphere at Princeton UMC.

**Membership:** One does not need to be a member of Princeton UMC to be married here. We do, however, encourage you to become active in this or some other church. In the case of the Sacrament of Baptism, one needs to be a member of the Church for a child to be baptized. Thus the issue of Church membership remains an important matter. *We do not baptize the children of non-members.*

**Divorce:** Divorced persons are not refused the opportunity to be remarried. This is usually at the discretion of the pastor. However, such remarriage of divorced persons must never be seen as condoning divorce. When we remarry divorced persons, we do so as a celebration of God's forgiveness and acceptance--which all humans need!

## ***What are the Costs?\****

The charges for the wedding services are listed on the Wedding Application. They include the Wedding Coordinator, Organist, Custodian, use of the building, and the services of the Pastor.

### ***Candlelight Weddings/Candelabra***

Candles on the ends of the pews and candelabra at the altar are available for candlelight weddings. Candelabra at the altar are available for all weddings. Fees are listed on the application.

### ***Bulletins for Wedding Ceremony***

There is an additional \$60 fee for creating and printing bulletins.

## ***The Wedding Coordinator***

It will be necessary for the bride or groom to contact the Wedding Coordinator, Maria Blomgren (609-919-9899 or m.blomgren@yahoo.com), approximately six months (if possible) before the date of the wedding. At this time you will discuss flowers, photographer, video, decorations, building accommodations and begin the process for the selection of the music to be used during the ceremony. Maria will be present one half hour before the rehearsal as well as during the entire rehearsal to *walk through* every detail of the wedding; she will be present on the day of the wedding, one hour before the ceremony's scheduled start and throughout the entire wedding. Feel free to call Maria with any questions you may have.

## ***The Custodian***

The custodian unlocks the church 1 hour before the wedding rehearsal and 1-1/2 hours before the wedding ceremony. He is the last to leave from both events. Before the ceremony, he attempts to have 4 parking spots on Nassau Street clear for wedding cars.

\*Should you require alternate availability of church personnel during non-church hours, those services may be available at a nominal fee.

### ***What Counseling is Required?***

The couple will meet with the Pastor at least **three times** prior to the wedding rehearsal. After submitting the wedding application please be in touch with the pastor to schedule the first appointment.

### ***What About Music?***

Since the wedding ceremony is an act of Christian worship, only music appropriate to the worship of God will be chosen. The concern is simply that any music used, classical, modern, or contemporary express worship to God rather than romantic sentiments. Some modern music specifically relates the wedding ceremony to the worship of God. (*He is now to be among you at the calling of your hearts...the union of your spirits here has caused him to remain, for wherever two or three of you are gathered in his name there is love.*) The use of musical instruments other than the organ or piano is also quite acceptable, provided there is Christian intent to the music.

The church organist will play for *all* weddings. (In some cases for small weddings the bridal couple may request that we dispense with organ music.) Contact should be made with the organist a month before the wedding to discuss special musical requests. Soloists and other musicians should consult with the organist to coordinate the music. Our organist is Hyosang Park (609-308-6920).

### ***Photography***

Photographers are asked to be discreet in taking photographs during the ceremony and to remain in the back of the sanctuary once the ceremony has begun. They may use flash only before and after actual ceremony. Video recording is allowed from a *fixed position* in the sanctuary. Please have the photographer and videographer call the wedding coordinator before the week of the wedding as well as see the wedding coordinator the day of wedding.

### ***The Marriage License***

The pastor may honor marriage licenses obtained anywhere in the State of New Jersey. The municipal government has a license bureau where you may obtain the necessary license. The agency will require that you bring a witness along with you when you apply for the license. Brides apply in the municipality where they reside. If the bride is a non-resident, apply where the groom resides. If both are out-of-state residents, apply in Princeton.

The license must be applied for within 30 days of the date of the wedding and requires a waiting time of about three days. Do not wait too late to apply, as the waiting time may extend over holidays, etc., and leave you unable to obtain the license by the date you have set.

**The license and remaining fees must be brought to the rehearsal.**

### ***Regarding Throwing Rice***

Princeton UMC does not permit the throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti, rose petals or herbs. Some other suggestions to replace these items: bubbles or bells.

The release of balloons is not permitted because animals and other endangered species at sea are sometimes killed by eating the rubber membranes after the balloons descend into the ocean.

### ***No Alcoholic Beverages***

No alcoholic beverages are permitted on church property. Many limo services now offer an alcoholic toast to the couple as they exit the church. Some might even use a non-alcoholic beverage. We request, out of consideration for the congregation, that you inform them that they are not permitted to offer *any alcoholic toast* on church property.

There should be no alcohol consumption before the rehearsal or the wedding by members of the wedding party.

### ***Promptness***

Out of courtesy to your wedding guests and the church staff, it is most important that all participants arrive on time.