

GUIDELINES  
FOR  
YOUR WEDDING  
AT  
PITTSBORO CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH



# WEDDING GUIDELINES FOR PITTSBORO CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## INTRODUCTION

“Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and in the presence of these witnesses to join together...” This is the way the traditional marriage ceremony begins. Before long you will be standing before your friends, your families, and your God to enter into the holy bonds of marriage. We want to help you start your marriage in as strong, as loving, and as joyous way as possible.

We know there will be many questions coming to your minds as you plan for your marriage. This booklet, approved by the Pittsboro Christian Church Board, is designed to help in answering some of those questions and to help you know the role that the church and the pastor play in your wedding.

## A CHRISTIAN WEDDING

Getting married in the church is not the same as getting married by a Justice of the Peace. Although holy matrimony is just as legal as a civil ceremony, it is primarily a religious ceremony that requires a commitment of each other to God as well as each other. If both bride and groom are not practicing Christians, you will want to talk with the pastor about whether a Christian wedding ceremony is right for you. Please do this before you secure a date on the church calendar.

## DATE AND TIME

The next step all couples need to take is the setting of a date and time for your wedding. Please call the church office (892-3245) to inquire about available dates. You will need to tentatively reserve dates for both the wedding and rehearsal on the pastor's and the church's calendar. In order to confirm these dates, all couples must return the Wedding Information sheet enclosed with this booklet. A fee of \$150.00 for use of the sanctuary is required for non-members of the church. A \$75.00 deposit must be returned with the completed Wedding Information sheet.

It would be good to reserve the dates at least three months ahead to insure enough time for invitations to be ordered, as well as for scheduling meetings with the pastor to discuss ways of creating a meaningful life together in marriage.

Meetings with the Pastor will include the following:

Discussion of marital expectations, including a Pre-Marriage Survey

Thoughtful reflection on families of origin for both bride and groom.

Ways of resolving conflicts

Planning a wedding ceremony

A pastor does not have all the answers but he or she can raise helpful questions that can help you find ways to affirm your desire to enter into marriage.

### ORGANIST

It is expected that the church organist will be asked to play for all weddings unless other arrangements are made with her approval. Our organist is Ellen Wheatley (her phone number is 838-5413); arrangements should be made directly with her as soon as the date and time is set for your wedding. There is a fee for the organist's services.

There is an abundance of beautiful music that is joyful and in keeping with the nature of a church wedding. Consult with the organist as to the selections that are appropriate; the pastor will have the final approval on any selections if there is a question to its suitability for the occasion.

### DECORATIONS

The church has 2 styles of candelabras and white candles that you may use for your wedding. If you want to use a pair of candelabras for your wedding, you need to use the ones the church has. We also have candle lighters for ushers to use.

Any florist will be able to provide an aisle runner if you so desire; the church aisle is 39 feet long. Ribbons, rubber bands, elastic or masking tape may be used to decorate pews. Please do not use tacks, clamps or staples in fastening any decorations. Also, decorations may not be attached to other wood or wall surfaces. Simplicity of decorations keeps the focus on the bridal party.

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Flash photographs may not be taken during the ceremony but may be taken during the processional and recessional. If the professional photographer has fast film, timed exposures (without flash) may be taken from the back of the sanctuary. If you wish to have the ceremony on video tape, please talk with the pastor about arrangements.

## WEDDING LICENSE

It is required by law that couples have in their possession the marriage license to be signed by the pastor at the time of the ceremony. The wedding license must be obtained from the county clerk's office (proof of age may be required). If you are 17 or under you will need a notarized letter with both parents' signatures, or both parents must accompany you when you file for your license. The license is good for up to 60 days so you will need to schedule your wedding accordingly.

## WEDDING

It is assumed that one of the ministers of Pittsboro Christian Church will preside over the weddings that take place in our sanctuary. Should you wish to have a guest minister take part, this should be discussed with the Pittsboro minister.

The rehearsal usually is conducted on the evening prior to the ceremony. A full hour should be allowed for the rehearsal. Important aspects of the rehearsal are for ushers to know what their responsibilities are, the lighting of the candles, the placement of the bridal party and groomsmen at the front of the sanctuary, the seating and dismissal of the guests.

Two rooms in our education wing may be used as dressing rooms. They are equipped with full-length mirrors and restrooms are easily accessible.

## WEDDING CEREMONY

The pastor will work with you to create a ceremony that is just right for you. You may wish for it to be traditional or contemporary, but either way it should reflect the seriousness of the commitment you are making to each other. With your wedding vows, you will formally say "yes" to one person and "no" to everyone else.

Here are some other elements you may wish to have in your ceremony:

Exchange of rings

Solos and/or congregational singing

Communion

The Parents' blessing

The acceptance of children from a previous marriage

The lighting of the unity candle

Bulletins

## RECEPTION

You may wish to have your reception at the church. We have people who are skilled at catering such an event; you may use their services or you may use a caterer of your own choice. If you hire your own caterer, please inform us of your plans so that someone from the church will be on hand to help things go smoothly in the kitchen.

## MISCELLANEOUS

Our sanctuary holds approximately 200 people. Smoking is not permitted in the building and no alcoholic beverages are allowed on church premises, including the parking lot. Guests may use birdseed but only outside the building, no rice is to be thrown.

## SUMMARY OF WEDDING FEES

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Organist	\$ 85	\$ 95
Custodian	\$100	\$100
Minister	\$ 85	\$200
Sanctuary	No Charge	\$150
Wedding Coordinator (Optional)	No Charge	\$ 75
Audio/visual support	No charge	\$ 75

(This includes any use of sound or video equipment)

(Please note that the church members are not required to pay a sanctuary fee. All fees are to be paid at the time of the rehearsal or ten days before the wedding if no rehearsal is scheduled. Please remit using individually labeled envelopes for each of the above fees.)







