

CHECK—LIST

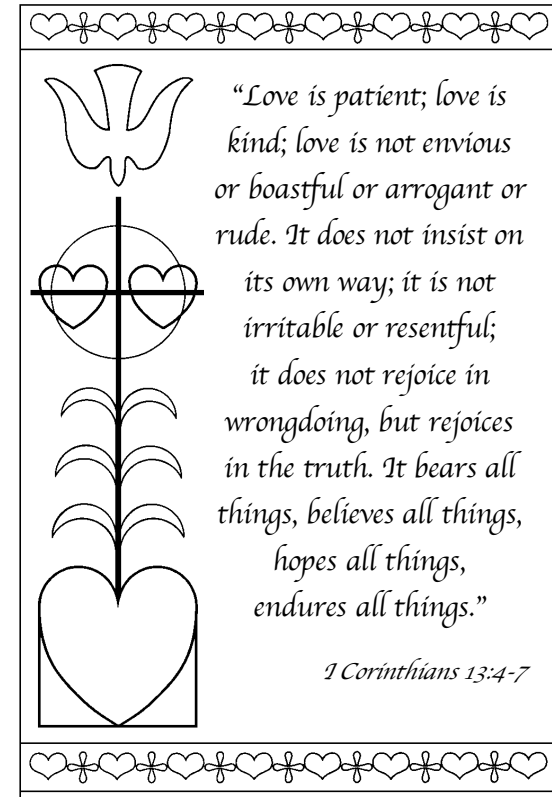
- ___ Initial church contact
- ___ Initial meeting with Clergy
- ___ Initial meeting with Office Coordinator
- ___ All dates confirmed with wedding party, Minister(s), and Director of Music
- ___ Consultation with church Director of Music (arranged by Office Coordinator)
- ___ Photographer, Florist and Caterer (if reception is at the church) are scheduled, names given to Office Coordinator at least two (2) months before the wedding
- ___ All fees are paid by two (2) weeks prior to wedding date
- Rehearsal is at _____ promptly at _____
- ___ Marriage License must be left with the Pastor at the rehearsal
- Arrival time will be at least one (1) hour before the ceremony.

Christian marriage is a reflection of God's commitment to us. It is life long and never ending. The congregation of Grace First Presbyterian Church invites you to accept and cherish this most precious gift of God.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12

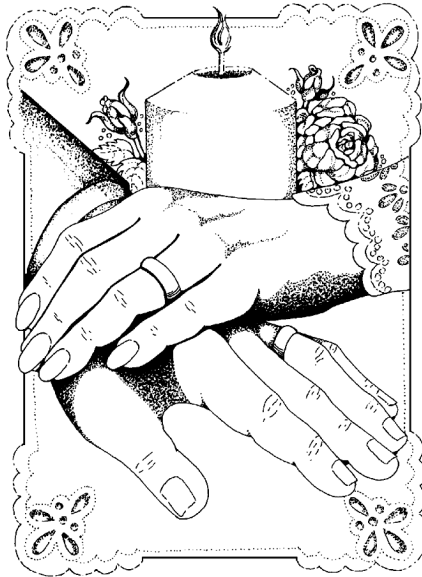
Approved and adopted by the Session of
Grace First Presbyterian Church.
Revised March 2019

CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AT Grace First Presbyterian Church



Adapted from the Book of Order,
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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"... and the two shall become one ..."
 Matthew 19:5

THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives. The sacrificial love that unites the couple sustains them as faithful and responsible members of the church and the wider community.

(W-4.9001) (Book of Order)

We are pleased that you have chosen Grace First Presbyterian Church in which to celebrate your marriage and begin your life together. In the spirit of reverent worship, our congregation has adopted policies for the celebration of weddings in our church. It is our hope that the information contained in this booklet will be of assistance to you in the planning and conducting of your wedding in a spirit of joy and in accord with those policies.

FEES

Please make checks out to the appropriate individual for their service. All checks to be written in full thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled wedding date and given to the Office Coordinator.

Church Members

Pastor	\$200
Director of Music/Organist	\$200
Church Office Coordinator	\$100
Cleaning Service	\$100

Non-Church Members

Includes Pastor's honorarium, organist Office Coordinator, Cleaning Service, and use of building	\$1200
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All Weddings

Soloists, each	\$100
(if requested and provided by Grace First)	

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Smoking is not permitted in any of the church facilities.

Only birdseed is allowed to be thrown on the newlyweds and must be used outside.

Personal valuables and other items should not be left unattended as the church is not responsible for lost or stolen items. Lockers are available for use by the wedding party.

Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off or placed in a silent mode during the wedding. Guests will be reminded as they enter the sanctuary.

SOUND SYSTEM

The church is equipped with a sound system that makes audio recording possible and is available upon request.

THE RECEPTION

The Great Hall or Parlor and Kitchen are available for the wedding reception. No alcoholic beverages may be served at any time in the church building or on the church grounds.

DRESSING AREAS

Dressing areas will be provided for the bride and groom and their attendants.

WEDDING REHEARSAL

A wedding rehearsal will be held normally the day before the service. It is very important that ALL of the wedding party be present and on time for the rehearsal.

CUSTODIAL SERVICE

All of the rooms (including Sanctuary and Kitchen) used in the church will be left in the condition in which they were found. If the wedding ceremony is conducted on a Saturday, any wedding and reception must be completed by 9:00 p.m. to allow for cleaning and set-up in preparation for Sunday morning worship services. The Office Coordinator will be the sole contact person with the cleaning service.



INITIAL CHURCH CONTACT

The church office should be contacted initially to determine a tentative open date on the church calendar and availability of the pastor. A meeting with the pastor is then scheduled for consent of the wedding and to confirm an agreed upon date.

CHURCH OFFICE COORDINATOR

The church's Office Coordinator is knowledgeable of the wedding policies. We request that, after the initial meeting with the Pastor, all further contact with the church be through the Office Coordinator. The Coordinator will be responsible for assisting with wedding plans and arrangements, scheduling meetings with the Director of Music/Organist, and contact with the cleaning service.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING

Premarital counseling between the pastor and the engaged couple is required. In preparation for marriage, the pastor shall discuss with the engaged couple the nature of their Christian commitment, the legal requirements of the State, the privileges and responsibilities of Christian marriage, the nature and form of the marriage ceremony, the vows and commitments they are asked to make, and the relationship of these commitments to their lives of discipleship.

If the pastor is convinced after discussion with the couple that commitment, responsibility, maturity, or Christian understanding are so lacking that the marriage is unwise, the pastor shall assure the couple of the church's continuing concern for them and not conduct the ceremony.



THE SERVICE

At Grace First, the Christian marriage is celebrated in the Sanctuary, as this is the place where the community gathers for worship. As a service of worship, the marriage service is under the direction of the Pastor and the supervision of the Session. The wedding will ordinarily be a special service which focuses upon marriage as a gift of God and as an expression of the Christian life. Celebration of the Lord's Supper during the service requires the approval of the Session, and care shall be taken to extend the invitation to the Table to all present who are baptized.

The Pastor of Grace First Presbyterian Church will ordinarily conduct the marriage ceremony. A pastor from another church may be able to participate in the service, with consent of the Pastor of Grace First and the Session.

MUSIC

Music suitable for the marriage service directs attention to God and expresses the faith of the church. The congregation may join in hymns and other musical forms of praise and prayer. Music needs to be selected a minimum of two (2) months in advance of the ceremony. The Director of Music maintains an extensive list of music suitable to the wedding ceremony and will be available to assist in the selection of music. The Director of Music has final approval on all music, text, instrumentalists, and soloists to be used in the wedding ceremony. If a soloist or instrumentalist is to be used, rehearsal time must be scheduled with the Director of Music/Organist as soloists do not rehearse during the wedding rehearsal. In compliance with the policies adopted by the Session, **no secular music and no recorded music or recorded accompaniment will be permitted.**

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Flowers, decorations, and other appointments will be appropriate to the place of worship, enhance the worshipers' consciousness of the reality of God, and reflect the integrity and simplicity of Christian life. No arrangements will be placed upon or obscure the baptismal font, the pulpit, or the communion table. Ribbons and greenery may be used on the center aisle, but no fastenings are to be used that will mar the pews. Only votive candles or drip-less candles with floor protection may be used in the sanctuary. Only silk flower petals may be thrown by the flower girl to prevent real petals from staining the carpet. Aisle runners are a safety hazard and may not be used.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The wedding is a service of worship; therefore photographs of the ceremony are to be limited to an entrance shot and an exit shot taken from no farther into the Sanctuary than the back pew. No other photographs, flash, time or otherwise, may be taken in the Narthex or Sanctuary immediately prior to or during the ceremony. The choir loft may be used for video cameras or other silent equipment without flash or special lighting only when not occupied by wedding guests. While in the choir loft, the photographer must not interfere with the musician's work or the organist's view of the wedding party downstairs. Arrangements for the use of the choir loft should be made in advance. Following the ceremony, the wedding party may pose for pictures in the Sanctuary. If preferred, pictures may be taken in the Sanctuary before the service. They must be completed at least one hour before the wedding is to begin.

