

HUNTINGTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WEDDING GUIDELINES

Thank you for your interest in a Christian wedding at the Huntington UMC. The Church believes that Christian marriage is a sacred covenant reflecting the covenant love between God and God's people. Though the primary vows are made between the couple entering into marriage, the congregation's participation is an essential element of the worship service. Those present are not simply witnesses; they compose an active congregation, which vows to uphold the couple in a lifetime of marriage. The Huntington UMC is glad to extend its facilities to its members and friends provided that the couple adhere to the following guidelines.

The couple should contact the Pastor about their desire to marry. At this time they may request a date for the wedding. The Pastor will check the date against the church calendar as well as the Pastor's calendar.

The couple must allow for three months of preparation time between the initial contact and the day of the wedding. During this time the Pastor will meet with the couple for three premarital sessions and a wedding rehearsal. The Pastor reserves the right to postpone or refuse the ceremony if the Pastor perceives significant cause.

The church trustees are empowered (though not required) to grant permission for families to host receptions in the church building. The appropriate building usage forms must be filled out before permission is granted. If church volunteers agree to host the reception, they must first check with the Pastor to make sure that the Pastor has approved of the desired date.

Flowers may be placed in the sanctuary and narthex areas. Two pedestals are available on the altar for flowers to be arranged. Tables and an additional pedestal are also available to decorate in the narthex area. Please do not use metal fastenings, nails, tacks, screws, push pins, or anything else that will mark the property.

Photographs with a flash may not be taken during the religious ceremony, but may be used during the procession and recession. All video cameras must be stationary during the ceremony. The pastor will be available to pose with the couple on the altar after the service, thus avoiding distractions from the religious ceremony.

Bird seed is the only material that may be thrown outside after the wedding ceremony. Bubbles with wands (*in small container*) may also be used outside if desired. Please do not use rice or confetti.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

(Please deliver all checks to pastor at the rehearsal)

A fee of \$250.00 which is required for the physical use of the building is ***waived*** for church members. You may use the sanctuary for the rehearsal and wedding ceremony, and the Narthex area for a receiving line, as well as use of the church grounds for photography.

You may also choose to use the church grounds for an outdoor wedding and Bovee Hall and the kitchen for preparation prior to the ceremony.

A customary honorarium of \$150.00
is paid to the pastor.

The fee for the organist is \$150.00.

The fee for the soloist is set by the soloist.

The wedding facilitator fee of \$75 is paid
at the wedding rehearsal. (*Member fee is \$50*)