

Wedding Policy of Southminster Presbyterian Church, Centerville, Ohio

We are happy that you wish to be married at Southminster Presbyterian Church. God gave us the gift of marriage so that two people might love, comfort, and support one another, living in faithfulness and devotion. We pray that your marriage will be one that reflects the active, compassionate, and patient love of Jesus Christ.

The Christian marriage ceremony is a service of worship before God. Because of the distinctly Christian orientation of the marriage liturgy, it is expected that at least one of the partners is a Christian. The church looks upon the public expression of your marriage commitment in the context of this worship service as a means of strengthening the foundation of your marriage.

The officiating minister from the Southminster staff will discuss the various liturgical possibilities with each couple and guide them in their choices. However, the couple needs to acquaint themselves with the church's wedding policy and abide by it. The service will be under the sole direction of the officiating minister from the Southminster staff.

Scheduling your Wedding

The officiating pastor is your primary contact for the wedding. Before a date is set for the wedding, the couple must contact in person or by phone, one of the pastors. The wedding will not be put on the calendar until the minister has been contacted, the property manager has been contacted, and the appropriate fees and deposit have been paid. (See fee schedule.)

We will not have any weddings or rehearsals scheduled to take place on Sunday mornings, during Holy Week (the week leading up to and including Easter), or during the Thanksgiving or Christmas holidays.

Officiating Pastor

Ordinarily, one of the pastors of Southminster officiate at all weddings held at the church. A pastor will guide you and assist you as you plan the service, and will provide ideas, resources and support, and counseling.

If the couple desires to invite another Presbyterian minister to officiate, this may only be done at the discretion of Southminster's Pastor/Head of Staff. In the event that the couple desires to invite a minister from another denomination to **assist** in officiating, this may be done at the discretion of the pastor and only by the pastor's invitation to the visiting minister.

Premarital Counseling

Because the church supports this important and serious commitment in your life, each couple is expected to participate in a series of premarital counseling meetings with the pastor. These meetings will include both parties of the wedding couple. The purpose is to help you look at

your relationship and see how it might be strengthened, to help the pastor get to know you better so that the service might be more personal, and to work together to make the service something that honors both God and your relationship.

Music/Organist

The music at a Christian wedding service should honor God and be reverent and suitable for a worship service. In addition to instrumental music or soloists, this can include hymns. Both the pastor and the church organist can help you as you make music selections.

The pastor will contact the church organist as soon as possible after the wedding is scheduled. Our organist has the right of first call for the service. The pastor will discuss music with you, and if the couple needs to discuss music choices with the organist, this must be done at least 30 days before the wedding. If an additional rehearsal is needed for the organist to work with a soloist, there will be an additional charge. (See fee schedule.)

All music used in the wedding ceremony shall be agreed upon by the organist and pastor. If there is a question as to whether a selection is appropriate, the pastor will make the decision.

Flowers and Decorations.

We encourage couples not to be overly elaborate in floral and other decorations, as they distract from the ceremony. The Christian symbols in the Chancel, such as the Communion Table, Baptismal Font, Pulpit and Cross shall not be obscured or displaced by decorations, and none shall be on the piano or organ.

No paraments or pre-existing seasonal decorations shall be removed from the Sanctuary. No tape, screws, glue, pins, nails, or other means of attachment may be used which could potentially cause damage to the church.

The wedding couple will provide the Unity Candle if one is used. **Aisle runners are not allowed**, due to the possibility that a guest will fall on the way out of the Sanctuary. **Only artificial flower petals may be** used in the aisles, and they must be picked up after the service. **No rice may be used** in the church or on the church property.

Deliveries of flowers and other decorations may not be made to the church any earlier than two hours before the wedding, and the florist must pre-schedule the time of delivery with the church and then call the church when he/she has arrived. Since the Sanctuary is upstairs and the offices are downstairs, this will keep the pastors and church staff from having to spend time waiting just for deliveries.

The florist or designated decorator is responsible for any damage to the church. A signed agreement, stating that the wedding couple (or representative) and florist (or designated decorator) have reviewed the church policy, must be in place 4 weeks prior to the wedding.

All decorations must be removed within 2 hours after the service. Otherwise, the deposit may be held. Southminster is not responsible for items left at the church.

Child Care

Southminster does not provide child care for weddings.

Use of Building

Non-Members

There is a building usage fee of \$200, of which \$100 is due when the wedding is scheduled and is not refundable. This fee includes the use of the sanctuary for the rehearsal and wedding, and the narthex for a receiving line, dressing areas, the sound and lighting technician and the custodian. In addition, there is a security deposit of \$150, also due at the time of scheduling, which is refundable in full or minus any damage or excessive clean up fees.

The rehearsal will be scheduled with the pastor for the day prior to the wedding. The facilities of the church are available for use by the wedding party for 5 hours the day of the wedding. This includes everything from decorating prior to the service to photos and socializing after the service.

Church Members

We do not charge our members for use of the Sanctuary for weddings. However, there is a security deposit of \$ 150, due at the time of scheduling, which is refundable in full or minus any damage or excessive clean up costs.

Wedding Fees

Members

Non-Members

Officiating Pastor	discuss with pastor	\$350 minimum honorarium
Organist	\$ 200 (<i>\$ 250 if works with soloist</i>)	\$250 (<i>\$ 300 if works with soloist</i>)
Soloist (if used)	\$ 150	\$ 150
Custodial Services	\$ 150	\$ 150
Utilities/Incidentals	\$ 0	\$ 60
Sound Technician	\$ 75	\$ 75
Use of Sanctuary (<i>decorating, rehearsal, wedding</i>)	\$ 0	\$ 200 <i>if use is under 5 hours</i> \$ 50 <i>more per hour after 5 hours</i>
Security Deposit	\$ 150	\$ 150

RECEPTIONS held at the church require separate fees and arrangements.

(Revised 2020)