

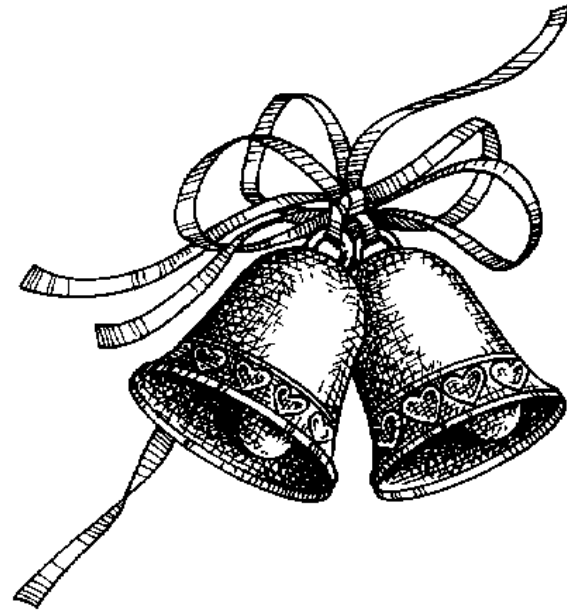
# Mt. Summit Christian Church

## Wedding Policy

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_



508 S. Walnut St., P. O. Box 310  
Mt. Summit, IN 47361  
765 836-4335  
[www.msccdisciples.org](http://www.msccdisciples.org)

Across the ages the church has lifted up marriage as a holy relationship, the basis for establishment of a family. We at Mt. Summit Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) are glad that you have chosen to be married in the church. Here the ceremony is undertaken in the presence of God. Thus, you affirm that God joins you together and that your relationship is to be regulated by His commandments. We want to do all possible to make your wedding a memorable and fulfilling experience of Christian worship.

Justin Schwartz, Senior Pastor

James Petty, Associate Pastor

Hillary Edington, Wedding Liaison

Terry Matney, Sound Technician

## Fees

The fee schedule distinguishes between regular participating members and non-members. "Member" fees apply only to regular participating members of the church and their immediate families. All fees should be paid ahead of time to the wedding coordinator. Deposit must be paid within two weeks after reserving the date. All fees must be paid in full by one month before the wedding date.

Deposits will be refunded, where applicable, within two weeks after the wedding if there has been no damage to church property and if no unusual cleaning is required.

Where a hardship is incurred, the wedding coordinator may make appropriate waivers and/or adjustments as approved by the minister.

	Regular Participating Members	Non-Members
Sanctuary Use	No Charge	\$200
Fellowship Hall	No Charge	\$200
Family Center	\$60	\$200
Custodian:		
Sanctuary/Dressing room	\$50	\$75
Fellowship Hall	\$30	\$30
Family Center	\$30	\$30
Organist/Pianist	\$200	\$250
Pastor	\$200	\$250
Sound Technician	\$50	\$100
Wedding Liaison	\$200	\$250
Deposit	\$100	\$100

The above are minimal prices. It is customary to add a gratuity to the payment for exceptional service.

## **Minister**

Our minister subscribes to our denomination's Ministerial Code of Ethics. Therefore, he or she will at all times try to be faithful to the calling, both to the Lord and to the members of Mt. Summit Christian Church.

Our minister officiates at all services of worship in the church, including marriages, according to the traditions and customs of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In desiring a marriage blessed by the church and its ministry, the couple accepts the minister's leadership in the service and will be guided by the principles of the church, and not by other customs. In the absence of our minister, the associate minister may be available to officiate.

Mt. Summit Christian Church expects the minister to work with the liaison in the coordination and officiation at all church authorized weddings. Under certain circumstances, a guest minister may be invited to perform the ceremony. In such cases, he or she may conduct the ceremony according to the rites of his or her respective church, but this must be coordinated with and have the approval of our minister.

## **Your Pre-Marital Conferences with the Minister**

MSCC feels it is the responsibility of our pastors and the church to raise the quality of commitment in those we marry. We believe that couples who seriously participate in premarital testing/assessment and counseling/discussions will have a better understanding of what the marriage commitment involves. As agents of God acting on His behalf, we feel it is our responsibility to encourage couples to set aside time for marriage preparation instead of concentrating only on wedding plans. We acknowledge that a wedding is a day; a marriage is for a lifetime.

Pastoral counseling is required for the couples at least three times before the wedding ceremony.

## **Wedding Liaison**

The wedding liaison will assist you with arrangements for your rehearsal, wedding and reception (if held at the church). The liaison will begin assisting you as soon as you have confirmed your dates for the rehearsal and wedding with the church office and the minister. Access to the building and use of church property will be arranged by the wedding liaison. A liaison is required for all weddings. An outside planner may be used, but our wedding liaison must be apprised of all plans and be present at the rehearsal and wedding. Fees still apply.

## **Photographs**

The wedding service is also a worship service. Photographs may be taken during the processional and recessional. But in order to maintain an attitude of respect, the couple and photographer need to discuss guidelines with the wedding liaison regarding their desires for photographs during the ceremony prior to the wedding day. No flash photography is permitted during ceremony.

Where lighting is not required, video equipment may be used to record the ceremony from the back of the sanctuary only (no moving around during the ceremony).

## **Receptions**

If outside caterers are used, they must use their own equipment. We do not provide any sound equipment for receptions.

## **The Rehearsal**

The rehearsal is usually scheduled the evening before the wedding itself. It is important that all the participants be present and on time. This includes the musicians, parents, and all members of the wedding party. The ring bearer and flower girl should be mature enough to take instruction well and not distract from the dignity and reverence of the wedding as a service of worship.

## **Music and Video**

Music used with the ceremony should be in keeping with the sacredness and dignity of the wedding as a service of worship. You will, therefore, discuss the selection of the music with the minister and wedding liaison who then reserve the right to exclude music they deem inappropriate – including music by guest musicians. **All music must be approved at least four weeks prior to the wedding.** When the church sound and video equipment is to be utilized, it may be operated only by or under the supervision of the church's sound technician or the wedding coordinator.

When the church's organ is to be used, it will be played by the church organist, unless a request for a guest organist is made through the wedding liaison. If a guest organist is to participate, arrangements will need to be made with the wedding liaison, guest organist, and church organist.

## **Use of Sanctuary and Facilities**

Our sanctuary seats 180 and the fellowship hall seats 150.

Since the wedding is taking place in the church where the symbols of the Christian faith surround the ceremony, furnishings such as the pulpit, communion table, lectern, organ, piano, etc., will remain in their respective positions. The only wax candle allowed would be a unity candle.

The florist will supply and prepare floral arrangements, pew items, and the unity candle when these are required. No live flora petals can be used on the aisle. Fasteners and materials used in decoration must be approved by the wedding coordinator.

The wedding liaison will direct the wedding party in the use of church property, setting and removing tables and chairs. Dressing rooms for the wedding party will be designated by the wedding liaison.

Birdseed and rice are not permitted. Bubbles may be used outside the building.

**Use of alcohol and tobacco are strictly prohibited on church grounds, and will result in the loss of the damage deposit.**

## **The Spiritual Significance of Your Wedding Service**

Though marriage is intensely personal and private, it is never completely so. Society is always involved. The religious wedding service is, in essence, the giving of public approval to the union by the family, the church, and the community. But, the wedding is more than a legal contract. A marriage is a privilege accorded to members of the church, but it is first and foremost a service of worship to God. It is the recognition before God of a lifelong commitment in which each partner pledges to give all of him or herself in a mutually binding covenant of love. It is a covenant grounded in God's own unconditional love for all people through Jesus Christ.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16

The root word "wed" means to covenant, promise, pledge, or 'vow' one's faith, fidelity, and truth. The wedding creates a covenant bond of faithfulness and unity in which the bride and groom are joined together so as to become spiritually "one flesh" (Matthew 19:6). This was God's intent from the beginning:

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper as a partner..." and the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man. The man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called woman, for out of man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh (Genesis 2:18, 22-24).