

THE LITTLE STONE CHURCH

WEDDING POLICIES

The Little Stone Church is pleased to make its staff and facilities available to couples that seek a Christian wedding ceremony. It is important that you read and fully understand the contents of this wedding policy. Any questions may be directed to the pastor.

Requirements

Ordinarily at least one partner in the couple should be an active member of our faith family, or be the child or stepchild of an active member. However, we welcome any couple wishing to have their wedding ceremony at The Little Stone Church to speak to the pastor. The session (board of the church) is gladly willing to consider exceptions to this policy.

Timeline

The first step is to setup an initial meeting with the pastor. Following this meeting the wedding date will tentatively be placed on the church calendar until session gives approval. The couple will be notified once the wedding date and facility have been secured.

Premarital Counseling

All couples are required to attend no less than six premarital counseling sessions with the pastor. During these sessions, various topics will be covered, including, but not limited to, the nature of Christian marriage, the relationship of the couple, their faith, and the nature and form of the wedding service itself. If the couple is unable to meet this requirement due to specific circumstances, alternative plans must be arranged with the pastor. The pastor must be satisfied that appropriate premarital counseling has taken place.

Financial Arrangements

The wish of The Little Stone Church is that no couple be denied a wedding due to financial reasons. Thus if the fee schedule is prohibitive, please speak with the pastor. A \$200 non-refundable deposit is required to secure the wedding date on the church calendar, which will be applied toward the facility fee listed below.

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| • Facility (includes staff fees) | \$650 |
| • Pianist/Organist (if needed) | \$125 |
| • Office (if bulletins are printed) | \$50 |

The couple is expected to make payment in the form of cash or checks at least two weeks prior to the wedding.

Worship, Music, and Decorations

The pastor will help the couple determine an order for worship, including appropriate scripture texts, other readings, and music. Any decorative items must be removable, and it is the responsibility of the couple to ensure all wedding decorations are removed the same day as the ceremony. Any damage caused by decorations will be charged to the couple, even if the damage is incurred by another party acting on the couples' behalf, such as florists, wedding planners, family members, guests, etc. The church has candelabras and two candlelighters available for use that are included in

the facility fee (candles are not included). The couple must schedule a time with the pastor for decorating so as to ensure there will be no building use conflicts.

Photography and Videography

Because a wedding service at The Little Stone Church is foremost a service of worship, we ask that your photographer and guests refrain from flash photography during the ceremony. Flash photography may be taken before or after the ceremony. If the wedding ceremony will be videoed, we ask that the videographers be discreet so as not to distract from the service of worship.

Changing Rooms, Food and Drink

Changing space for the wedding party is available downstairs in the church basement. Please feel free to bring food items and non-alcoholic beverages; they may be stored in the kitchen and church refrigerator. Trashcans are provided throughout the church for your convenience, and we ask that everyone make a concerted effort to keep the church clean.

Marriage License

It is the responsibility of the couple to ensure the necessary marriage license and to bring it to the wedding rehearsal.

Rehearsal Night

The pastor is responsible for directing the wedding rehearsal; it should take no longer than 45 minutes. All members of the wedding party are expected to arrive promptly at the set time. Later arrivals could mean a shorter and less thorough wedding rehearsal. Anyone (including the wedding party, bride or groom) who is found to be intoxicated or under the influence will be escorted off the premises. The couple is expected to bring the marriage license to the wedding rehearsal.

Wedding Reception

If the couple would like to have a wedding reception at the church, they will need to speak with the pastor to obtain fee schedules and other requirements.

Guest Clergy

If the couple desires to have another pastor participate in the wedding ceremony, this should be discussed with the pastor of The Little Stone Church prior to inviting any guest clergy. Only at the invitation of our pastor will another pastor be permitted to participate.

Other Items

Rice or confetti may not be thrown after the wedding; birdseed or bubbles may be used outside only instead. Please speak with the pastor for further information. No smoking or alcoholic beverages are permitted anywhere in the church facility.