

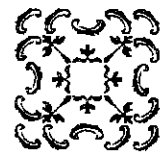
Fountain Inn Presbyterian Church

## WEDDING GUIDELINES

307 North Main Street

Fountain Inn, SC 29644

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### The Wedding as Christian Worship

Because a wedding ceremony is one of life's most sacred rituals, it behooves us to instill into it as much reverence and solemnity as possible. It is highly desirable that Christians be married by an ordained Christian minister and that the wedding service take place in a Christian church.

Marriage is a holy estate, instituted by God, between a man and a woman, and hallowed by our Lord's gracious presence at a marriage in Cana of Galilee. It is commended in Holy Scripture as an honorable estate signifying the mystical union between Christ and His Church. It is, therefore, not to be entered into lightly or unadvisedly, but thoughtfully, reverently, and prayerfully, with due consideration of the purposes for which it was ordained.

A wedding service for Christians is an act of worship in which we recognize the providence of God in guiding us and helping us to find and choose the person who is to be our life-long companion and mate. As part of our worship we offer praise and thanksgiving unto our Heavenly Father for His providential guidance in the past and we seek His continued guidance for the future, imploring His blessing upon the bride and groom and the home they are to establish.

When others are invited to be present, a wedding service becomes an act of corporate or congregational worship for all who gather for prayer and praise, to honor God and to implore His blessing upon those being united in marriage. Those who share in this sacred event are not spectators but worshippers.

As early as possible prior to the date contemplated for the wedding, it is expedient for the prospective bride and groom to contact the pastor who is to officiate, and to arrange for one or more conferences with the pastor at times which are mutually convenient. There are many things which they need to discuss with the pastor in a serious and unhurried manner.

The pastor is anxious to help in every way possible, and with careful and prayerful planning, the ceremony can be made much more beautiful and meaningful than would be possible otherwise. Even more important is the durability and success of the marriage and the growing happiness of the bride and groom as they build their home on a spiritual foundation of faith and love.

### Planning For Your Wedding

The Session is responsible for establishing the policy for the use of the sanctuary and church facilities for weddings. In this brochure the Session wants to set forth criteria which seek to preserve, for the church wedding, an atmosphere of worship. It is the desire of the Session that every wedding ceremony be profoundly spiritual in its atmosphere and also a memorable and beautiful occasion.

Weddings should be scheduled through the Session by contacting the pastor well in advance of the proposed date in order that it may be placed on the church calendar at the earliest possible moment. The request should state the date, time, and facilities to be used. The Session has the authority to grant or to deny requests for the use of our church buildings for weddings. No alcoholic beverages are permitted on the church premises. The rehearsal and wedding will be conducted in the Christian spirit with dignity.

### The Pastor and Your Wedding

The pastor of our church is in charge of all worship services. A wedding is a service of worship. Ordained clergy from other churches may officiate your wedding, but must be invited by the pastor and Session of our church. Invited clergy are expected to adhere to the form of worship and policies for weddings in our church.

The pastor will make an appointment with both bride and groom for conferences. These conferences need to take place well in advance of the wedding date. At these conferences, the pastor will talk about the meaning of Christian marriage and the Christian marriage service. He/she will also discuss the way it is conducted in our sanctuary.

It is imperative that the couple take time for this counseling. After all, this is the second most important decision and commitment that anyone will ever make. (The most important being the acceptance of Christ as Savior.) During this counseling the pastor's concerns will be not only to prepare the couple to take their vows meaningfully, but also to strengthen the couple's commitment to each other and to God.

### Decorations

It is expected that the utmost care be given when using our facilities and furnishings. The following specific information is provided which will also be made available to the florist in charge of your wedding decorations.

1. No tacks, tape, nails, or wires are to be used on any furniture, carpet, moldings, or walls.
2. All potted plants or palms used should have the pots covered and padded, and they must be placed on polypropylene film so they will not damage the carpet. Hymn books must not be used for padding. No decorations will be placed on the piano and/or organ.
3. Candles should be carefully arranged when used with greenery in order to prevent the possibility of fire. To protect the carpet from damage, the church requires that dripless candles be used and that polyethylene film be placed beneath all candelabras. The florist is requested to contact the wedding director for further details and arrangements.
4. The communion and pulpit furniture may be relocated under direction of Property Committee Chairman, pastor, or approved acting custodian.
5. All decorations and rental equipment must be removed from the buildings immediately after the ceremony so the facilities may be cleaned and prepared for church use. If decorations and rental equipment are not removed promptly, the security deposit will be forfeited.

5. Processional
6. Recessional
7. Final instructions by the director to the wedding party

Music for Your Wedding

The Christian marriage service is an act of public worship; therefore, any music used in connection with it should be suitable for a church service, as distinguished from a social gathering. As in all other services for the church, it will be an aid in worship. Music is to be approved by the pastor. Secular music which does not fit the serious nature of the ceremony will not be approved.

The organist can help you plan the music for your wedding. The bride is likely to have the best possible music for her wedding if she relies upon the experience and judgment of a Christian, qualified musician. The church's organist is usually available to play at the church. The bride should contact the organist as soon as possible to determine his/her availability. Other approved organists or musicians may be used.

The sound system will be operated by a member of the church approved by the Worship Committee, if needed.

Required Custodial Services

Custodial services are required. Person(s) approved by Session will be used for custodial services by members and non-members. This person will be responsible for opening and closing of the facilities, turning on lights, heating or cooling, movement of furniture, setting up and taking down chairs, cleaning, etc. Any additional custodial services from the norm may incur an additional charge through the Facilities Committee. Normal fees are listed in this brochure.

No rice or bird seed is to be thrown anywhere on church property.

Church Fees

There is no charge to a church member for the use of church facilities. This is part of the congregation's ministry to its members. Membership includes the bride or groom and/or the parents of the bride or groom. There are no other exceptions. The Chair of the Worship Committee, Chair of the Property and Facilities Committee, and the pastor may approve any changes in church deposits or building and grounds' fees.

Church Security Deposit: The security deposit is to be paid upon reservation. This fee will be refunded for members and applied to the church fees for non-members, unless damages are incurred or wedding policies are not followed.

Reservation fees will be refunded if there is a cancellation for members or non-members.

<b>Reservation/Security Deposit</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Non-member</b>
Sanctuary	\$100	\$350
Fellowship Hall	\$100	\$150
CFC Building	\$100	\$150
<b>Church Fees</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Non-member</b>
Sanctuary	No charge	\$350
Fellowship Hall or CFC	No Charge	\$300
Director	\$200	\$200

Organist *Organist fee includes meeting with bride, rehearsal, and wedding. Fees may be added for extra practice hours needed for additional musicians and shall be negotiated with organist and/or other musicians. See "The Music for Your Wedding" for more details.*

6. The church does not provide a kneeling bench, candelabra, or candle lighter.
7. No rice or bird seed is to be thrown anywhere on church property.

#### Instructions for the Wedding Photographer

1. No pictures are to be taken during the ceremony by the official photographer or guests.
2. The only pictures allowed are as the bride starts down the aisle and as she and the groom leave the area of the wedding and must be made at entry and exit door at the rear of the sanctuary. Photographers will not be allowed down either aisle. They must remain at the back of the church for all pictures. There should be no moving about or sounds from reloading cameras during the ceremony. There is ample opportunity for pictures of the wedding party before the service and in the sanctuary after guests have left.
3. A video-taping of the ceremony near the rear of the church is acceptable, providing there is no moving, no extra lighting, and no noise.
4. Please remember this is the Lord's house. Do not step on seat cushions or leave equipment where it may damage property.
5. It is the responsibility of the bride to inform the photographer of these regulations.

*Strict adherence should be paid to the above regulations.*

*If there are any questions, please consult the wedding director.*

#### The Wedding Director

It is expected that one of our wedding directors supervise your wedding. Our directors are familiar with our church's policy on weddings and familiar with our church facilities. They are experienced and qualified in

directing all size weddings and will work with the pastor.

If for some special reason the bride desires someone else to serve as director, it will be necessary for the pastor to grant special permission to that person to direct in our church. They would be expected to be familiar with our church's wedding policy and to abide by it.

The director will meet with the bride (and others) early to examine the facilities, review the areas of the church to be used, discuss the arrangements, etc. Details of the rehearsal will be worked out prior to the rehearsal. Then the director will direct the rehearsal and the wedding.

#### The Rehearsal

It is imperative that all members of the wedding party be on time for the rehearsal. Unless extenuating circumstances exist, the rehearsal will begin at the appointed time. Therefore, absent members will not have the advantage of the rehearsal. Estimated rehearsal time for most weddings is approximately one hour. Please set time for beginning the rehearsal no later than 6:30 pm.

During the time of the rehearsal and the wedding, it is expected that all members of the wedding party will refrain from using alcoholic beverages and from smoking in the church facilities. The bride and groom are to be responsible for making these rules known to all members of the wedding party.

The rehearsal consists of:

1. Opening remarks by the Pastor, introduction of the Wedding Director, and the Pastor's Prayer.
2. Placement of the wedding party
3. Walk-through the ceremony
4. Recessional

**Fees for custodial services and wedding director will be paid to the church two weeks prior to the wedding.**

<b>Church Fees</b>	Member	Non-member
Custodial Services		
Sanctuary	\$200	\$200
Fellowship Hall	\$200	\$200
CFC Building	\$200	\$200
Sound system operator	\$100	\$100

An invoice will be sent for final payments not already covered within 30 days after the wedding.