

## **First Presbyterian Church Wedding Policy**

### **1. Officiant**

- a. Ordinarily, the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church will have the privilege of conducting weddings in its sanctuary. The invitation for another minister to take part in the service must come from the pastor of First Presbyterian Church. Couples should not invite other clergy to take part in the service before consulting the pastor.
- b. The Pastor will lead the worship service and will assist with the rehearsal. *The service begins with scriptural sentences and a brief statement of purpose. The couple shall declare their intention to enter into Christian marriage and shall exchange vows of love and faithfulness. The service includes appropriate passages of Scripture, which may be interpreted in various forms of proclamation. Prayers shall be offered for the couple, for the communities which support them in this new dimension of discipleship, and for all who seek to live in faithfulness. In the name of the triune God the pastor shall declare publicly that the couple are now joined in marriage. A charge may be given. Other actions common to the community and its cultures may appropriately be observed when these actions do not diminish the Christian understanding of marriage. The service concludes with a benediction. ---- Book of Order 4.0994*
- c. The Pastor may invite others to participate in the wedding, with approval of the couple.
- d. The couple will meet with the pastor about details regarding the order of the ceremony. The pastor must approve the order of service. All parts of the ceremony should be appropriate to Christian worship and acceptable offerings to God.
- e. Arrangements will be negotiated with the pastor for premarital counseling.
- f. The Pastor will guide the couple in the use of church policy, including church guidelines related to the church's building and property.
- g. The Pastor reserves the right to cancel the wedding if the couple is under the influence of alcohol. Any member of the wedding party will not be allowed to participate if they are under the influence as well.

### **2. Music**

- a. All music in the wedding service shall be approved by the Pastor and Director of Music. The couple shall consult with the pastor concerning church musicians and fees.
- b. Like the pastor, the organist of First Presbyterian Church has the privilege and responsibility of leading worship at weddings, and shall ordinarily play for all weddings. Another organist or other musicians may be invited to take part in weddings at the discretion of the Pastor and organist of First Presbyterian Church.
- c. The wedding party may also choose to use recorded music.
- d. The piano is not to be moved, without permission.
- e. Musicians should consult with the Pastor to schedule their practice time.

### **3. Sound System**

- a. The sound system shall only be operated by the church sound person(s).