

**SOCIAL PRINCIPLES
OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

MARRIAGE

We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman. We believe that God's blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage.

To the Bride and Groom,

On behalf of Calvary United Methodist Church, I wish to congratulate you and wish you the very best as you prepare to enter one of life's most enjoyable and exciting aspects. As a couple you are preparing for a lifetime commitment, and we want to assist you in making that preparation complete and in making that commitment to one another lifelong.

I would like to be sure that you realize that from the church's perspective a wedding is a worship event. This means that we are worshipping God as you are united in marriage. By focusing on that aspect of this time, other critical issues are put in proper relationship for you. By choosing to be married in the worship center of the church, you are saying that your faith in God is very important to you, and we are blessing your relationship in God's name.

One of the first items for you to remember is that you will need to set a time to meet with me, so that I may coordinate the plans for the wedding. That will most often be a brief meeting and will conclude with setting the initial meeting with a member of the Wedding Guild and the Calvary minister who will be participating in your wedding ceremony.

You will be meeting with one of the ministers on staff who will be participating in your wedding ceremony. Each of us requires counseling prior to the marriage, and you will need to discuss with the minister plans for the counseling. You will also want to check with the minister if there are questions that need to be answered at any time.

May God bless you with love and grace as you prepare for this very important time and for the lifelong commitment of marriage. Keep in mind the love and power of God in all of life.

Yours in Christ,

ABOUT THESE GUIDELINES

These wedding guidelines grow out of the desire of Calvary United Methodist Church to live out faithfully its understanding of Christian marriage. The guidelines are based on our years of experience in assisting couples in all of the varied facets of their wedding. The guidelines reflect concerns that have arisen in the past and what we have learned in dealing with these concerns.

The members of Calvary hope that these guidelines will help us to be faithful in the stewardship of our facility and personnel as well as in our commitment to serve those who are united in marriage here.

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WEDDING GUIDELINES

All weddings taking place at Calvary United Methodist church will be coordinated and directed by the officiating minister and a Wedding Guild member. One of Calvary's ministers will participate in all weddings.

The bride and groom will meet with the Calvary minister who is participating in your ceremony and a Wedding Guild member to review the guidelines and to establish a mutual understanding of all church policies.

The wedding ceremony is scheduled through the senior minister's office. Forms are given at the time of first contact. **Only when the completed forms and fees are received in the church office, will the wedding date be confirmed.**

ABOUT THE CEREMONY

Many questions arise as plans for a church wedding are being made. These guidelines assist you in making appropriate decisions and inform you of church policies. Please keep in mind that the wedding is a service of worship with a very special purpose.

While there is a beauty and dignity in the traditional ceremony for Christian marriage, it is possible to use a more contemporary ceremony. A variety of optional services are available currently in the United Methodist Church. Arrangements for these services or to include vows that you have written should be made in consultation with the Calvary minister who is participating in your wedding and are subject to the minister's approval.

Two criteria should be met by the wedding ceremony. *First*, the ceremony should be in keeping with the Christian understanding of marriage. *Second*, it should be as personally meaningful as possible. This is a high and holy occasion in your life, and Calvary United Methodist Church wants it to be carried out in a worshipful and joyous atmosphere.

If you wish to have a minister outside of Calvary to assist in the ceremony, professional courtesy calls for the minister at Calvary who is participating to extend the invitation to the other minister. Talk with your minister here to make those plans.

COUNSELING/WORSHIP

Pre-marital counseling is an important element of marriages at Calvary. All couples will be required to participate in counseling sessions with a pastor prior to the ceremony as designated by the officiating pastor.

Regular participation in worship is also important as you approach your marriage. As stated previously in these guidelines, a wedding at Calvary is to be a Christian Worship Service, and will be shaped by your understanding of faith and worship.

If you are already participating members of Calvary or other communities of faith, your regular presence will be encouraged and discussed in the months leading up to your ceremony. If you are not presently participating in a community of faith on a regular basis, your Calvary pastor will be asking for your commitment to regular presence either at Calvary or another congregation as you prepare your wedding.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Hand-held/mobile photography is not permitted. A stationary, one-manned video camera may be placed in the far right rear of the chancel. This is the only place a video camera may be used in the chancel or nave during the service. Placement of a video camera must be arranged with the Calvary minister and the Wedding Guild representative and coordinated with the florist so it is not visible and does not obstruct the mechanics of the ceremony (i.e. lighting of candles, etc.)

Photographs may be taken in the Narthex, Masters Common or in the balcony. Those taken in the sanctuary must be completed one hour prior to the ceremony to facilitate the arrival of guests and the lighting of the candles.

Photographs may not be taken in the chancel or nave after the processional has started or until the recessional has been completed: family and friends are asked to refrain from taking pictures during the ceremony out of respect for the religious service and the solemnity of the occasion.

Following the wedding, additional photographs may be taken in the sanctuary, but it is strongly suggested that not more than one half hour be devoted to this in consideration of guests waiting at the reception. Make a list of photographs to be made before and after the ceremony at the reception.

Time exposures and available light photographs may be made from the balcony during the ceremony.

DECORATIONS

Beauty and symbolism exist within the chancel itself.

- No chancel furnishings may be moved or hidden from view without pastoral approval.
- The florist must remove all decorations ***immediately following picture taking after the ceremony*** (within one hour).
- Decorations should be kept to a minimum.
- The church can be opened up to 4 hours prior to service (Be sure to arrange this with your Wedding Guild member)
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- Decorations will not be fastened to walls or furniture using nails, tacks, tape or similar fasteners. All supports and bases necessary for candelabra, etc., must be furnished by the florist.
Pew decorations will be secured with ribbon only.
- Only live flowers or foliage may be used in the chancel area. However, flower girls may scatter **ONLY silk petals.**
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- **Only chase candles** may be used in candelabra.
- All candles and candelabra will be confined to the chancel area.
- Seasonal decorations will not be moved.
- Protection must be placed under all pots; palms and candelabra
- The Unity candle may be used in the wedding ceremony. **The Bride must provide the Unity candle and the tapers.**
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- The kneeling bench is available when requested

The florist must remove all decorations immediately following picture taking after the ceremony.

MUSIC

It is important to keep in mind that the marriage ceremony is a service of worship.

Music is an integral part of this ceremony; its purpose is to enhance the worship experience and to glorify God. All music should be suitable for a service of worship. There is some music which, while it is particularly meaningful for the bridal couple, may not be appropriate for use in a sanctuary setting. This music could be used at the reception or the rehearsal dinner. Secular music may not be used during the ceremony. The Minister of Music can assist in making selections.

Only our staff organist may play the sanctuary organ. Arrangements for vocalists and instrumentalists must be made through the Minister of Music. It is the bride and groom's responsibility to arrange a meeting with the Minister of Music and organist to select an appropriate program of music for their wedding.

Prior to the rehearsal the bride and groom need to make an outline of the order in which the wedding party will process into the sanctuary and where each will stand.

If you wish to have soloists (vocal or instrumental) participate, you must coordinate this with Calvary's Minister of Music.

REHEARSAL

Approximately ONE MONTH prior to the wedding date the bride will meet with the Wedding Guild representative to work out wedding details and coordinate the ceremony procedures enabling the rehearsal to proceed smoothly.

The rehearsal the night before the wedding will be directed by the officiating minister (s), assisted by the Wedding Guild representative.

All members of the wedding party should arrive on time ready to proceed so the rehearsal will not last longer than one hour.

HELPFUL NOTES

- ~ The **marriage license** must be in the hands of the minister prior to rehearsal.
- ~ Fees to soloists, instrumentalists and others should be paid directly to the individual AT THE REHEARSAL.
- ~ If there is a Rehearsal Dinner and you would like the minister and spouse to attend, please invite them several weeks before the event.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

As a safety precaution **no rice, birdseed or flower petals** may be thrown on the church premises.

No smoking is permitted in the building.

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PERMITTED ANYWHERE ON THE PREMISES AT ANYTIME!

No tents can be placed on the asphalt parking lot.

The church will be open four (4) hours prior to the wedding time for decorating, dressing, and preparing for the service.

Personal items should not be left in the dressing room(s) during the ceremony. Please arrange to have items, such as purses, curling irons, clothing, etc., placed in owners' cars during the wedding. The church is not responsible for items left in the rooms during the wedding.

SMALL PRIVATE CEREMONIES

Some persons may wish to marry in the church but do not wish to have the sanctuary or chapel decorated or to have a reception with a cake and refreshments. Friends and family would be greeted at the altar rail following the ceremony.

Fees for such a wedding are substantially less than those for a more elaborate ceremony and may be negotiated in consultation with the church business administrator.

PERSONNEL

Senior Minister	Dr. Peter van Eys
Minister of Family and Children	Rev. Jule Nyhuis
Minister of Congregational Care	Rev. Susan Spieth
Director of Music	Mrs. Deborah Graham
Organist	Tom Metcalfe 313-5318
Church Secretary	Sandie H. Draper
Custodians	Jeff Jenkins David Boulie
Church address:	3701 Hillsboro Road Nashville, TN 37215
Church telephone:	297-7562

WEDDING FEES

ADDITIONAL FEES

An extra fee will be charged for use of the following:

Soloist/Instrumentalist (provided by the church)

Fellowship Hall

Christian Life Center

Use of Church Dishes

Kitchen

Classrooms other than those used for Dressing

WEDDING FEES

**MEMBER—Bride is an active member of
Calvary or one whose membership is still
on our rolls.**

**Sanctuary or Chapel, organist, custodian
sound technician, damage deposit (returnable)**

\$600

CHECK LIST

Duty	Name
1. Call Church Secretary to request (Information and tentative date) *Non members must wait 3 months prior to ceremony	Sandie Draper 297-7562
2. Meet with a member of Calvary's Pastoral Staff to briefly discuss Guidelines/Plans and to schedule Counseling. (As early as possible)	Dr. Peter van Eys 297-7562
3. Meet with a member of Calvary's Wedding Guild at least ONE month prior to the wedding.	You will be contacted
4. Schedule counseling sessions with Officiating pastor.	
5. Meet with church organist to discuss Musical selections.	Tom Metcalfe 313-5318
6. You may also want to meet with the Director of Music.	Mrs. Deborah Graham 297-7562

Wedding Notes ...