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# YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED!

*Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage is a civil contract between a woman and a man. For Christians marriage is a covenant through which a man and a woman are called to live out together before God their lives of discipleship. In a service of Christian marriage a lifelong commitment is made by a woman and a man to each other, publicly witnessed and acknowledged by the community of faith.*

From the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA)



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Phone: 219 663-0129

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## **PLANNING YOUR WEDDING**

This policy should help you plan your wedding at Christ Presbyterian Church. If you have questions about these guidelines or related issues please call the church office at 219 663-0129.

### ***Church Membership***

You may be married at Christ Presbyterian Church regardless of your current church membership. However at least the bride or the groom must be a Christian: trusting God's gracious mercy, acknowledging Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and seeking to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

### ***Time***

We will place your wedding and rehearsal on our calendar as soon as you provide a completed application with a deposit toward the wedding fees and schedule your first counseling session.

### ***Place***

Most weddings will be performed in the Church Sanctuary. If another location is desired these arrangements can be discussed with the pastor when you schedule your initial pre-marital counseling session. There is no charge for use of the sanctuary for members and their families. Non-members are charged a fee to cover janitorial expenses, utilities, and maintenance.

### ***Pre-marital Counseling***

The pastor will meet with all couples desiring to be married for pre-marital counseling. These sessions will consist of: discussions about the meaning, privileges, and responsibilities of Christian marriage; a review of the marriage ceremony and the vows; and an exploration of the married life in relationship to discipleship and the Church. These topics will be covered in three 1-hour sessions. Whenever possible these sessions should begin several months before the wedding. You should also meet with the pastor a month or so after the ceremony.

An honorarium may be given to the pastor in recognition of time preparing for and providing counseling sessions, the rehearsal, and the wedding ceremony.

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## ***Rehearsal***

Most weddings require a rehearsal. This is traditionally held the day before the ceremony. The bride and groom, their attendants, the organist and any soloists, ushers, and parents should be in attendance.

## ***Music***

The church organist will serve at all church weddings unless other arrangements are made by the couple. Musical selections will be discussed with the pastor during pre-marital counseling to ensure that the proper religious focus is maintained.

The organist fee includes these services:

- A short meeting to discuss and select music.
- Any music to be performed by the musician must be given to the musician, if not the musician's collection. The musician observes all copyright laws in the reproduction of music.
- The music must be given to the musician no later than two weeks before the wedding, otherwise the musician may select substitute music.
- Two half-hour practices with the soloist(s) – one before the rehearsal and the other at the rehearsal.
- Music at the wedding rehearsal.
- Fifteen minutes of prelude music, procession pieces, and postlude music.
- Accompaniment for up to 2 solo or duet vocal pieces.

## ***Flowers***

You may secure flowers from any source of your choice. Make arrangements to have the flowers and any other decorations delivered at least one hour before the service. The placement of flowers in the sanctuary will take place with the consultation of the pastor. The wedding party is responsible for the disposal of all floral arrangements and decorations following the service. If desired the flowers may be donated for Sunday worship; if you let

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us know at least a week in advance, your donation may be noted in the Sunday morning worship bulletin.

### ***Photographs***

The congregation may take pictures during the processional and the recessional. The movement of photographers may disturb you, your guests, and the pastor during the worship service. Your wedding service may be photographed or videotaped only from the rear or sides of the sanctuary using a fixed tripod and only with existing lighting (no flash photography).

No other picture taking is permitted during the actual wedding ceremony. Photography requiring special lighting or staging maybe conducted before the prelude or after the recessional.

### ***Candles***

The church has two candelabra that may be used, each holds seven candles. There is a fee for the dripless candle fuel.

### ***Final Things***

- Please use birdseed instead of rice, its better for God's little creatures. Also refrain from throwing birdseed inside of the church.
- Limited facilities are available in which the wedding party may dress.
- The marriage license must given to the pastor prior to the wedding rehearsal.

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## **SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE FOR YOUR WEDDING**

You are free to choose any Bible reading. The following list may help you in choosing Scripture readings.

### **Old Testament**

Genesis 1:26-31	Created in the image of God
Genesis 2:18-24	Bone of my bones
Song of Solomon 8:6-7	A seal upon your heart
Proverbs 3:3-6	Trust the Lord with all your heart
Ecclesiastes 4:9-12	“Two are better than one.”
Jeremiah 31:31-34	God makes a new covenant

### **Psalms**

Psalms 95:1-7	O come, let us sing to the Lord
Psalms 100	Make a joyful noise to the Lord
Psalms 103:1-5, 15-18	Bless the Lord, O my soul
Psalms 121	Lift up my eyes to the hills
Psalms 128	Happy is everyone
Psalms 136:1-9, 26	O give thanks for God is good
Psalms 145	I will exalt you, O God my King
Psalms 148	Praise the Lord
Psalms 150	All that breathes praise the Lord

### **New Testament**

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18	Be living sacrifices
I Corinthians 13:1-13	Faith, hope, love abide
Colossians 3:12-17	Clothe yourselves with love
I John 4:7-12	Let us love...God is love
Revelation 19:1, 5-9	Rejoicing at the Lamb's marriage

### **Gospels**

Matthew 5:1-10	The Beatitudes
Matthew 5:13-16	Salt of the earth
Matthew 19:3-6	No longer two, but one flesh
Matthew 22:35-40	The great commandment
Mark 10:6-9	What God has joined
John 2:1-11	The wedding at Cana
John 15:1-17	Jesus, the true vine

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# **SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR YOUR WEDDING**

*From the Presbyterian Hymnal*

## **Processional/Recessional**

- #464 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
- #478 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
- #482 Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

## **Praise**

- #473 For the Beauty of the Earth
- #276 Great Is Thy Faithfulness
- #224 Let Us with a Gladsome Mind
- #214 O Come and Sing Unto the Lord
- #467 O Worship the King All Glorious Above
- #481 Praise the Lord, His Glories Show

## **Commitment**

- #339 Be Thou My Vision
- #275 God of Our Life
- #282 If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
- #531 Not For Tongues of Heaven's Angels
- #335 Though I May Speak

## **Blessing**

- #376 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
- #533 O Perfect Love
- #325 Spirit Divine, Attend Our Prayers
- #434 The Grace of Life Is Theirs

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## ***Suggested Order of Worship***

These services are basic outlines you and the pastor will personalize a service specifically for your wedding.

### **Option I (45 - 60 min.)**

#### **The Gathering**

Call to Worship  
Processional  
Confession and Pardon  
Music

#### **The Word**

Readings from Scripture  
Sermon  
Creed  
Music

#### **Christian Marriage**

Statement on Marriage  
Prayer  
Declarations of Intent  
Affirmations  
[Music]  
Unity Candle  
Vows  
Exchange of Rings  
Prayer/Lord's Prayer  
Charge/Blessing to Couple  
Music  
Prayers of the People

#### **The Lord's Supper**

#### **The Sending**

Charge and Blessing  
Recessional

### **Option II (20-30 min.)**

Entrance  
Sentences of Scripture  
Statement on Marriage  
Prayer  
Declarations of Intent  
Affirmations  
[Music]  
Unity Candle  
Readings from Scripture  
Sermon  
[Music]  
Vows  
Exchange of Rings  
Prayer/Lord's Prayer  
Announcement of Marriage  
Charge and Blessing

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# **WEDDING FEES AT CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

*Fees may be reduced, for financial hardship, at the discretion of the Pastor.*

## ***Building Use***

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(including janitorial services)

Members	Donation
Nonmembers	\$150.00

## ***Candelabra***

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Fuel	\$10.00
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## ***Bulletins***

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Creation	\$25.00
Printing	\$0.10 each

## ***TOTAL PAID TO CHURCH***

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## ***Organist (Pay Organist directly)***

\$250

## ***Pastoral Services (Pay Pastor directly)***

Recommended Honorarium:

\$400





## CHRIST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

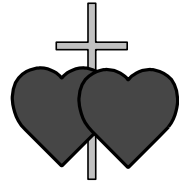
7416 E. 109<sup>th</sup> Ave.,  
Crown Point, IN  
219-663-0129

[www.ChristWinfield.org](http://www.ChristWinfield.org)

Wedding Date \_\_\_\_\_ & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal Date \_\_\_\_\_ & Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_



### WEDDING INFORMATION:

Number of Bridal Attendants \_\_\_ Groomsmen \_\_\_ Ushers \_\_\_

Flower Girl \_\_\_ Ring Bearer \_\_\_

Church Organist \_\_\_ Other Musician(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Candelabra \_\_\_ Unity Candle \_\_\_ Kneeler \_\_\_ Bulletins \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Reception \_\_\_\_\_

### **BRIDE'S MARRIAGE INFORMATION**

Bride's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\* Religious Background \_\_\_\_\_

First Marriage \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_\_ Widowed \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children \_\_\_\_\_ Children reside with \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Bride's Parents:

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**GROOM'S MARRIAGE INFORMATION**

Groom's Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\* Religious Background \_\_\_\_\_

First Marriage \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_\_ Widowed \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children \_\_\_\_\_ Children reside with \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Groom's Parents:

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOLLOWING THE WEDDING:**

Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\* At least the bride or the groom must be a Christian.

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## **NOTES**

Use this space to jot your questions and ideas about the wedding service and your vision for married life.