

# **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Farmington, IL**

## **Procedural Guidance and Information Sheet**

The pastor(s) will guide and assist you in making your wedding a truly high and holy occasion in your lives.

Marriage in Farmington First Presbyterian Church is considered to be “instituted of God, regulated by his commandments, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, to be held in honor among all people.” The marriage ceremony is performed only in the context of divine worship in this church. Your wedding will mean more to you, your families, and friends when careful consideration is given to the sacred aspects of this holy occasion.

### **Scheduling**

Please plan in advance for the use of the sanctuary. The minister will help you with your personal wishes concerning the wedding based on availability. A time for counseling should be arranged and the date for the wedding set as early in the wedding planning stage as possible.

It is recommended that couples seeking to be married in this church consult with the pastor at least six (6) months in advance of the wedding date. The pastor may require the couple to submit to premarital counseling and may establish any required fees (payable in advance). The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) states: “If the minister is convinced that Christian commitment and responsibility are lacking, and that the marriage is not one which offers promise of being blessed by God, he/she shall not perform the ceremony.”

### **Officiating**

The pastor (or associate pastor) of the church will officiate at all weddings. If another clergy member is desired to conduct the ceremony, please provide that person’s name and telephone number so that he or she may be contacted by this office.

The officiating minister(s) will meet with the wedding party for a wedding rehearsal to explain all procedures. Please have the entire wedding party, including the ushers, present promptly at the prearranged time.

The marriage license should be in the minister’s possession one week before the wedding.

### **Music**

Music is an important part of a wedding ceremony. Since weddings in our sanctuary are in the context of worship, music selections need to be appropriate. The choices to be made should be discussed with the pastor during planning of the wedding service. The pastor may also provide names of vocalists or musicians as needed.

The church organist/pianist will normally play at all weddings. The fee for the organist/pianist, recommended as \$100, is also due before rehearsal. Under no circumstances will the

sanctuary organ or piano be played by another individual without the prior knowledge and consent of the organist/pianist.

### **Decorations**

The church suggests tasteful simplicity in decorations. Please do not use nails, thumbtacks, or glues that may stain to attach decorations to the seats. Please use dripless candles in the candelabra, as wax is difficult to remove from the flooring. The custodial fee is for the extra services of the custodian. Those services include cleaning, dusting, and vacuuming before and after the wedding service. The custodian is not responsible for the placing or removing of decorations.

### **Photographers**

Please instruct your photographer that flash pictures are not permissible in the sanctuary from the end of the processional until the recessional. Nonflash pictures may be taken discreetly if they do not distract from the worship service.

### **Wedding Contributions**

When the bride or groom or one of their parents is a member (child of a member) of the church, the following contributions are suggested:

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|----------------------------|--|
| Use of sanctuary           | \$150 (payable in advance) – (No charge to active members) |
| Use of the Fellowship Hall | \$75 (payable in advance) – (No charge to active members)  |
| Custodian                  | \$ 50  |
| Organist                   | \$100  |
| Soloist                    | \$   |

When neither the couple nor their parents are members of this church, the following contributions are suggested:

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Use of sanctuary           | \$300 ( <i>payable in advance</i> )                              |
| Use of the Fellowship Hall | \$150 ( <i>payable in advance</i> )                              |
| Custodian                  | \$50   |
| Organist                   | \$100 (includes rehearsal & wedding and is due before rehearsal) |
| Soloist                    | \$25   |
| Minister                   | \$150  |

The bride and groom are required to sign the Church Wedding Application Form, agreeing that they understand and will comply with the foregoing guidelines. Reservations for the church will be considered firm when the signed confirmation form is returned to the church office.

*According to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) a marriage ceremony is a service of worship before God and is, therefore, subject to the following:*

- a) The rehearsal and service falls under the direction of the pastor.*
- b) Reverence will be expected on the part of all present.*

- c) *Music shall direct attention to God alone and shall be approved in advance by the minister.*
- d) *Flowers, decorations, and other appointments should not be unduly extravagant.*
- e) *No alcoholic beverages are allowed on the church grounds at any time.*
- f) *No flash photography is allowed during the service itself. Video recording of the ceremony is permitted.*