



*JAMES ISLAND
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*

Wedding Policy

18 November, 2013

YOUR WEDDING AT JAMES ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SETTING YOUR WEDDING DATE

In order to reserve the date you would like for your wedding, we need a deposit of \$500.00. This deposit will be applied toward fees for the minister, wedding director, and sexton. Any remaining fees, including music fees must be paid through the church office one week prior to the rehearsal. Once you have made the deposit, you need to contact the minister to schedule premarital counseling. If you would like an additional minister to assist in the wedding, this is acceptable. Please understand that we have instructed our minister to coordinate all weddings in our church.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING

A significant aspect of preparation for your wedding is counseling. Couples married in our church should be in contact with the minister one month before your wedding date to schedule your counseling sessions. A minimum of three counseling sessions is necessary. If you and your spouse are currently involved in counseling, the three sessions may be waived upon request.

The sessions are confidential and are to help you explore ways to establish a sound marriage. During sessions, you will discuss such things as how you and your future spouse will cooperate in the areas of finance, faith, future family, role expectations as husband and wife, how each of you handles anger, how each hopes to support a caring, warm intimate relationship, sexual roles in the marriage and any other particular areas that you may wish to examine together.

LICENSE

It is recommended that the marriage license be obtained at least one month prior to your wedding. Bring your marriage license to the church office at least one week before the wedding so that our secretary and minister may fill it out.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

No alcoholic beverages are allowed in any of the church buildings at any time. For reasons of cleaning and safety, please, neither rice nor confetti is to be used in the church buildings.

REHEARSAL

To assure a smooth wedding service, a rehearsal is recommended. The best time for the rehearsal is the evening before the wedding. Allow approximately 30-45 minutes for the rehearsal. If organ or piano music is to be provided for the wedding, the organist or pianist, along with others in the wedding party should be present. All music must be approved by our minister.

THE WEDDING DAY

Our church is delighted you have chosen to use our facilities for your wedding. Since the Christian marriage ceremony is a service of worship of God, it is very appropriate to conduct it within God's house. Marriage is one of the most momentous occasions in anyone's life. It should be special. We want to help make your wedding a beautiful and meaningful occasion.

In the human sphere, marriage is a civil contract between a man, a woman and the state. When the marriage is performed in the church, however, it takes on added meaning. Therefore, the proclamation of the Gospel and promise of reconciliation in Jesus Christ is important in the blessing of a marriage. As the man and woman respond affirmatively to this proclamation, their marriage is consecrated in the name of the Lord, whether it be a first marriage, a marriage after the death of a spouse, or even a marriage after divorce.

God created marriage for the welfare of humankind. He ordained that men and women should enter together into marriage, pledging their love and promising fidelity each to the other, as long as they both shall live. Our Lord Jesus Christ blessed the marriage relationship and the church has declared it a holy event. Those who pledge themselves to each other in the sight of God are promised God's guidance as they enter into the joys and struggles of life together.

WEDDING RECEPTION

The Fellowship Hall is an appropriate and convenient place for a wedding reception. If you would like to use it, please let the church office know well in advance so that the date may be confirmed and Session approval can be obtained. The Wedding Director will make arrangements for the Hall to be cleaned and restored to the condition in which it was found. The fees described later cover only the cleaning of the floor and the necessary arrangement of the furniture. Please refer to General Guidelines for other information.

WEDDING DIRECTOR

Our Church provides the wedding director for your convenience. All weddings in our church must be supervised by our wedding director. Any wedding that includes attendants requires a wedding director. The director's purpose is to provide, along with the minister, a meaningful and joyous wedding experience for you. The director will oversee your rehearsal and wedding in our church. After your wedding is scheduled, she will arrange a meeting with you to begin to plan your wedding and she will then be available to answer any questions you may have concerning the use of our church or the wedding ceremony. You are welcome to engage a wedding coordinator for your rehearsal dinner and reception, but understand that private coordinators are not responsible for the direction of your wedding ceremony.

MUSIC

The organist or pianist should be consulted by the bride well in advance of the intended wedding date. He or she should know what music the bride would like to have played and when in the ceremony they are to be used. If a soloist is desired, the organist will be able to furnish names of singers. Should the family desire a particular soloist, arrangements can be made with the organist for adequate rehearsal time. The music should begin 15 to 30 minutes before the announced time for the wedding. All music and musicians must be approved by our minister. A list of approved musicians and phone numbers are available from the church office. All fees for musicians are to be negotiated with the individual musicians.

DECORATIONS AND FLOWERS

The church is the House of God. Decorations including flowers should be appropriate. Candelabras are available for your use. If candles are to be used, you should use only the finest quality dripless candles. Aisle runners are not allowed because they pose a safety hazard. A kneeling bench is available to be used during the wedding prayer.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Photographers and guests are not permitted to take flash pictures during the wedding ceremony which is at all times to be considered a worship of God. The wedding is considered to have started when the mothers are being seated. Please inform your friends and family of this policy. Time exposures may be taken from the narthex or the side doorways if you would like. Video cameras with a tripod may also be used but only from

the side or the back of the sanctuary. The minister will pose for pictures taken either before or after the ceremony.

EXPENSES

When either the bride, groom or their parents are active members of James Island Presbyterian Church, the sanctuary fee and Fellowship/Friendship Hall fee are waived. The Personnel fee includes the Minister (wedding service, counseling and rehearsal), Wedding Director, and janitorial service.

Personnel	\$500.00
Sanctuary Fee	\$1000.00
Fellowship Hall Fee	\$250.00
Janitorial Fees:	
FellowshipHall	\$100.00

Those using our facilities are asked to take care of the property. We appreciate your respect for this lovely, historic building. Should there be any additional cleaning needed for such things as candle wax on the carpet, water spots from decorations, etc., you will be responsible for the cost. This has never been a problem in the past and we trust will not be in the future.

You may contact the church office, 795-3111, to check on availability of your chosen date and if you have further questions. Payment of the \$500.00 deposit must be made in order to receive Session approval for your wedding. If cleaning or repair fees are incurred, you will be billed after the wedding.

WEDDING CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS

It is traditional at weddings that the bride's mother is seated last, just before the time for the ceremony to begin. The mother of the groom should be seated just before the mother of the bride. When the service is over, the order is just reversed. The bride's mother is escorted out first with the bride's father following behind. Then after the bride's family is escorted out, the ushers should escort the groom's mother out, with the groom's father following behind.

These customs and traditions may or may not be followed, according to the wishes of the bride. According to tradition, the bride's wishes are to be followed as closely as possible within the context of the worship of God.

It is our prayer that these guidelines and suggestions will prove to be helpful in your preparation and planning of this most important event in

your life. May God bless you in the days and weeks of preparation and planning and in your new life together.

SCRIPTURE

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness and patience, forbearing one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, so everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 4:12-17

Beloved, let us love one another; for love is of God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

I John 4:7-12

...from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder.

Mark 10:6-9

But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

Ruth 1:16-17

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but I do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers,

and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13

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