

**WEDDING POLICY**  
**Venice Presbyterian Church (EPC)**  
**McDonald, PA**

**THE NATURE AND MEANING OF MARRIAGE IN GOD’S DESIGN**

Venice Presbyterian Church affirms that marriage is God’s gift to humanity, that this gift is created in conformity with God’s design to bind together one man and one woman in a life-long complementary union. In marriage, a man and a woman provide support, encouragement, and help for growth in godliness and Christlikeness, nurturing the fruit of the Spirit in each other and cultivating in each other and in their life together a vivid embodiment of the kingdom of God. Only weddings of one man and one woman entering into a covenant of life-long fidelity in conformity with the Holy Scriptures and the constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) may take place on the property of Venice Presbyterian Church.

**THE AUTHORITY OF THE CHURCH SESSION OVER WEDDINGS**

All requests to be married at Venice Presbyterian Church must be approved by the church session. At no time does the church session relinquish its authority over the wedding ceremony or any other activities taking place on church property. The church session retains the authority to require changes to the wedding ceremony and related activities at any time after the approval of the wedding, if it deems such changes to be necessary and appropriate in obedience to Scripture and in accordance with the constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. In accordance with the Scriptures and the constitution of the EPC, weddings ceremonies that take place at Venice Presbyterian Church will be considered services of worship and will contain all the elements necessary to the proper worship of God, namely, prayer, the reading and exposition of scripture

**THE CHURCH PASTOR AND WEDDINGS**

Ordinarily, the pastor of Venice Presbyterian Church will preside over weddings ceremonies that take place on the property of the church. No one may preside over wedding ceremonies on the property of Venice Presbyterian Church without the approval of the church session and the installed pastor of the church.

The installed pastor remains free to decide as to his or her participation in the wedding. The fact of the church session’s approval of a wedding on Venice Presbyterian Church’s property does not in any way imply or require the participation of the pastor in the wedding. Should he or she choose not to preside over the wedding, still no alternate officiant may preside over the wedding without the approval of the church session and the installed pastor of the church.

**SEXUAL RELATIONS AND COHABITATION**

Sexual relations are part of this good gift of marriage from God. Venice Presbyterian Church in obedience to Scripture affirms that marriage is the only appropriate and healthy context for the expression of this good gift of sexual relations. It is the expectation of Venice Church that those living as members of the church and within its discipline will live chastely in singleness and with

fidelity in marriage. Further, it is the expectation of this church that those seeking to be married on church property will likewise live sexually chaste lives, abstaining from sexual relations until after their wedding.

Because in our current cultural environment cohabitation of couples is uniformly understood to imply a sexually active relationship, cohabitating couples will be asked to alter their living arrangement and discontinue living together until after their wedding before approval for their wedding at Venice Presbyterian Church. Couples requesting permission to be married on the property of Venice Presbyterian Church will by virtue of their request be understood to be agreeing with this requirement regarding their sexual activity and regarding their living arrangements prior to marriage.

**Fees and Honoraria:**

***For non-members of Venice Presbyterian Church:***

- A fee of \$200.00 is required for use of the building for a wedding ceremony, including the wedding rehearsal.
- An additional \$100.00 fee is required for the use of the building for a wedding reception. There is an additional \$50.00 honorarium for the kitchen attendant. This attendant will be assigned by Venice Presbyterian Church.
- An honorarium of \$200.00 is required for the pastor/officiant.
- An honorarium for the services of the organist/pianist will be set by the organist/pianist based on the amount and complexity of music requested.
- An honorarium of \$30.00 is required for the sound board operator.

***For members of Venice Presbyterian Church:***

- The same honoraria as above are required for the kitchen attendant, the organist/pianist, and the sound board operator.
- There are no set fees for the use of the building or for the services of the pastor. Donations and gifts of appreciation are, of course, welcome.

VENCIE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wedding Information Form

Date submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ Date approved by session \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of Venice Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of Venice Church? \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Information

Date of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Rehearsal \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Rehearsal \_\_\_\_\_

Number of attendants (total) \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be using musicians or soloists in addition to the church organist? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please give details: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Will you need:

\_\_\_\_\_ Audio/Video services (more than just for microphones)?

If so, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Special arrangements on the platform (chancel) for unity candle, sand ceremony, etc.

If so, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How many people will be invited to the wedding ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_