

### **Conducting a Wedding and Rehearsal**

1. Make sure you are clear on the following before you ever arrive at the rehearsal:
  - a. Who is the coordinator, and how much does she want to handle at the rehearsal? Normally, the coordinator will stay at the back of the church, directing the wedding party from there, and the pastor directs what happens from the front.
  - b. Order of Wedding service
    - i. Who is doing what?
    - ii. What music will there be, and when?
    - iii. Are they wanting to do communion? Unity candle? Do they have the necessary supplies for those?
  - c. How is the wedding party entering?
    - i. Usually, after the candlelighting, the pastor, groom and best man will enter first and take their places, then the wedding party will come in.
    - ii. Will they enter as couples?
    - iii. Where will each person be standing? Have the order figured out before the rehearsal – this will save some time and confusion.
  - d. Is there a sound man? Lapel mic?
2. At the Rehearsal
  - a. When everybody gets there, I usually will gather everybody in the front few seats of the church and start with a short word of prayer.
  - b. Have the bride and groom introduce those involved in the wedding.
  - c. Start the rehearsal by putting everybody in their places as they will be standing on the stage (wedding coordinator will help with this)
  - d. After they are all where the bride wants them (the bride is always right ☺), then have them exit as they will exit at the end of the wedding:
    - i. Bride & groom first
    - ii. Then the wedding party
    - iii. Finally the pastor
  - e. Start from the very beginning of the ceremony and walk the wedding party through it – candlelighting, where the parents get seated, when the party comes in, where they stand, etc.
  - f. It is not necessary to go through all the words, or all the music – just as long as everybody knows the “whens” and “wheres”.
  - g. Go until the bride and groom are comfortable with everything.
3. At the Wedding
  - a. Be there as early as the bride and groom want you there.
  - b. Check in with the coordinator – see if there is anything she needs
  - c. Be available to the bride and/or groom – see if they are okay
  - d. Start when the coordinator gives the go-ahead!
  - e. Have fun!

## Sample Wedding Ceremony

- Prelude – (*music*)

Song(s)?

- Seating of Grandparents
- Seating of Parents
- Processional

- Entrance of the Bride (*music*)

- Giving away of the Bride

- Statement of Purpose - Pastor
- Declaration of Intent – Pastor leads
- Exhortation - Pastor
- Vows & Rings

Song(s)?

- Communion
- Unity Candle

- Prayer of Blessing

- Pronouncement of Marriage

- Kiss

- Presentation of Newlyweds

- Recessional - (*music*)