

# FENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH WEDDING INFORMATION AND POLICIES

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Congratulations on your engagement and upcoming wedding! We are delighted that you are considering Fenton United Methodist Church for your wedding ceremony. The church staff is pleased to assist you in planning and coordinating your wedding ceremony so that it is a meaningful way to express your covenant of love.

The wedding ceremony is an act of worship as we celebrate the grace of God that brought you together, and that will sustain you through the peaks and valleys of marriage. As an act of worship, the wedding ceremony points us to God as the Creator and Sustainer of the sacred covenant of marriage, and thus we enter into this covenant relationship with each other and with God.

The following information and guidelines will help you plan your wedding at Fenton United Methodist Church.

## 1. WEDDING DATE AND APPLICATION

The Wedding Application form should be completed and returned to the church office as soon as possible. This will be passed on to one of the pastors for final confirmation. Please understand that this can take some time as the church calendar is typically full, and sometimes several staff members must be contacted to ensure the wedding can be handled. The church secretary will provide you with the final confirmation. At that time, a non-refundable \$100 fee should be submitted to reserve the date on our calendar. Please note the date is not finally reserved until the pastors have confirmed their availability and the reservation fee is received.

## 2. PRE-MARITAL APPOINTMENTS

Bridal couples are required to meet with the pastor performing the wedding at least two times before the wedding. To ensure enough time for these meetings, they should begin about five to six months prior to the wedding. Each meeting lasts between one and one-and-a-half hours. At these meetings you will be talking about a variety of topics to help you prepare for the lifetime journey of marriage.

## 3. CLERGY

Typically only clergy on staff at Fenton United Methodist Church will perform the wedding ceremony. However, they are happy to invite another clergy to assist. In some cases, another United Methodist clergy may perform the wedding without the presence of a clergy from the Fenton UMC staff. In those cases, the senior pastor will review and confirm or deny the request. If the senior pastor confirms the request, she or he will invite the guest pastor in writing and send along a copy of our wedding policies.

## 4. MUSIC

It is the responsibility of the bride and/or groom to contact the church organist at least three months prior to the wedding to arrange for the planning of the wedding music. The church organist's contact information will be provided to the bridal couple when the wedding date is confirmed. The musical selection is subject to the approval of both the church organist and the pastor officiating at the wedding. Soloists are to provide their own copy of the music as well as a copy for the organist. Soloists must make arrangements in advance of the wedding rehearsal to practice with the organist. If you do not wish to use organ music at your wedding, permission must be granted by the pastor officiating at the wedding to use other musicians, recorded music or no music at all.

## 5. MARRIAGE LICENSE

A marriage license is obtained through your County Clerk's office. This should be obtained about thirty (30) days in advance of your wedding. The typical cost is \$20. When applying for the license you must present both the bride and groom's birth certificates and Social Security numbers. The person applying for the marriage license must also present a picture ID with the current address. Printable application forms are online for Genesee, Oakland and Livingston Counties. There is a three-day waiting period between the application for the license and when you can pick it up. When you pick up the license, please make sure that all information is correct. Then, bring it to the church for safe-keeping until the wedding. There is information we will need to complete on the form, and it will be one less thing you need to worry about bringing to the wedding.

## 6. OTHER WEDDING FEES

All other wedding fees that apply to your wedding (candles, organist, hostess, etc...) must be paid at least one week prior to the wedding date.

## 7. THE REHEARSAL

All persons participating in the wedding ceremony should attend the rehearsal, including parents of the bride and groom. Any others that you want to invite are also welcome. The rehearsal usually takes an hour. Please be prompt. Persons at the rehearsal or wedding that appear to be intoxicated will be removed and may cause the cancellation of the wedding. Smoking and alcohol are not permitted on the church campus.

## 8. THE WEDDING CEREMONY

As we stated above, the wedding ceremony is a time of worship. It is both a solemn and a celebrative event. We want you to enjoy your day, celebrate the love you have found with each other and rejoice in the covenant you are making in an atmosphere of reverence that we are God's presence. You and the pastor will take time to plan your wedding in a way that accomplishes all of that. If you have any special requests, or wish to write your own vows, please discuss these with the pastor officiating your wedding well in advance.

## 9. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES

You may arrive two hours before your wedding is scheduled to begin and must depart an hour after your receiving line has ended. Arrangements to arrive earlier or depart later can be negotiated through the wedding hostess.

## 10. THE WEDDING HOSTESS

The wedding hostess is here to assist you and the pastor officiating at your wedding. She will be at the rehearsal to assist you with cues for entrances, to answer your questions, to instruct the ushers and to show you where you will dress before the wedding. On your wedding day, the wedding hostess will again assist you with any questions and be available to help in case there is a difficulty with your dress or flowers or any other unforeseen problem. The wedding hostess will make sure that you are where you need to be at the right time before the wedding. She will be an invaluable help to you, and relieve a lot of stress before your wedding ceremony.

## 11. FLOWERS, CANDLES AND DECORATIONS

The delivery and arrangement of the flowers are the responsibility of your florist. Please give them our contact information so that they can arrange to deliver and arrange the flowers before

the wedding. Typically they are delivered and arranged about an hour before the wedding. If you are not taking them with you when you leave, we will dispose of them.

We will provide altar candles at no charge. If you want more candlelight, we have pew candles and a candelabra available at an extra charge.

If you choose to use an aisle runner, it needs to be at least 100 feet long.

Decorating may be done the day before the wedding unless otherwise scheduled. Decorations may be affixed with ribbon or pipe cleaner. We cannot allow the use of putty, tacks, tape or glue.

For environmental, guest safety and cleaning purposes, we suggest that, if you wish to have people shower you, you use bubbles outdoors. We cannot allow the use of birdseed, rice or confetti.

## 12. PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEOTAPING

Weddings should be remembered with excellent photography! In order to facilitate an orderly wedding ceremony we need your photographer to abide by our wedding photography policies; which we will give to you to give to your photographer. Among those policies are:

- a. Pictures may be taken up to ten minutes before the scheduled wedding time and then for thirty minutes after the end of the receiving line.
- b. During the ceremony non-flash picture may be taken. The photographer may move about the sanctuary except on the chancel area during the ceremony. Any photographs of the ceremony the photographer wishes to take with a flash can be "staged" following the receiving line and the signing of the marriage license.
- c. Video cameras may be set up in the balcony and one on the main floor to the left of the chancel in front of the pillar.