WEDDING POLICY AND PROCEDURES

The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection is pleased and honored to offer the Wedding Ministry for the very special occasion of holy marriage. Weddings are available for both our members and visitors to the congregation. The wedding ceremony is a worship service where the bride and groom pledge themselves to one another in the presence of God and begin their marriage with Christ as the foundation. The following policies and procedures have been formulated to help your wedding go as smoothly as possible.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MARRIAGE AT RESURRECTION

- At least three visits to worship are required of non-members to enable an understanding of our denomination and our church.
- Completion of the Premarital and Newlywed Class.
- Meeting(s) with assigned pastor prior to the ceremony.
- Presentation of properly executed marriage license at the rehearsal.
- A waiting period of at least six months following a divorce or death of a spouse shall be observed to allow for healing following the end of a previous marriage.
- The church grounds are alcohol-free and the buildings are alcohol and smoke-free. If alcohol is present on the premises, the officiating pastor reserves the authority to cancel the service.

SCHEDULING THE WEDDING

Please contact Heather Sooley, Operations Coordinating Assistant at 816-389-8900 or heather.sooley@cor.org as soon as possible regarding the date you wish to schedule. She will mark your date with a tentative notation. This may be done for members up to 12 months prior to the wedding. Non-members are welcome and may reserve their wedding date up to 9 months in advance. The office will confirm wedding dates only after the non-refundable deposit has been received.

Resurrection Blue Springs weddings are scheduled on Saturdays in the late afternoon or early evening. You have use of the building for 3 hours on the wedding day. Rehearsals usually last one hour and are scheduled for the evening before the wedding.

THE VENUE

Weddings take place in the Blue Springs sanctuary, a modern and warm worship space. There is seating for 250 guests.

THE PASTOR

Rev. Penny Ellwood pastors Resurrection Blue Springs and will officiate at the weddings. Rev. Ellwood will also perform weddings off site as her schedule allows. Guest pastors are welcome to assist with the approval of the campus pastor.

The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection does not discriminate based on gender; we do ordain women clergy. If there is an issue with this policy, perhaps you should consider another church.

The pastor expects to spend one or more sessions in conference with a couple planning to be married. It is the responsibility of the pastor to function in this capacity as a counselor. This will include discussions of both the service and the marriage itself. The couple must contact the pastor’s administrative assistant to schedule this session(s).

Communion is not offered at a Resurrection wedding but the couple may share the marriage cup. Please discuss with the pastor.

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PREMARITAL AND NEWLYWED PREPARATION CLASS
The Church of the Resurrection offers a required five-week premarital course prior to being married here. Rev Glen Shoup, conducts this ministry program at the Leawood campus. Each session is two hours in length and is currently scheduled for Monday nights at the church. There are several courses scheduled throughout the year. Topics include communication, conflict and resolution, financial management and experiencing God, among others. Please contact the Michelle Varhola at 913-544-0712 or michelle.varhola@cor.org for more information.

WEDDING COORDINATOR
The Wedding Coordinator represents the church in coordinating the many details of the wedding and rehearsal within the church. Her responsibilities include: ensuring the wedding venue is ready for the rehearsal and wedding, unlocking rooms for the wedding party, coordinating audio set-up, arranging guest book podium and gift table, assisting pastor with rehearsal, orchestrating processional and recessional, monitoring time schedules related to the ceremony, ensuring the church is cleaned after the wedding, and overseeing any other facilitation needs within the church.

When the wedding date has been confirmed and placed on the wedding schedule, a Wedding Coordinator will be assigned. All inquiries after this point should be made directly to the Wedding Coordinator. The Wedding Coordinator will call to discuss plans and answer questions. She will assist with rehearsal and will be at the church during the entire time you are in the building.

THE DRESSING ROOMS
The bride and her party may dress in the church nursery. The groom’s party may use a designated classroom if necessary. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to arrange for the care of the property of the wedding party before, during and after the wedding, as well as the removal of such items immediately following the service. The church will not be responsible for any articles belonging to any person in the bridal party, any guest at the wedding or any vendor serving the wedding.

MARRIAGE LICENSE
The pastor can only perform weddings in full accordance with the law. Please do not overlook the necessity for careful compliance. The wedding cannot take place without a marriage license. The license is to be given to the Pastor or the Wedding Coordinator at the rehearsal. If you are marrying in Missouri, the license must be issued in Missouri. Likewise, if you are marrying in Kansas, the license must be issued in Kansas.

WEDDING MUSIC
The wedding is a service of worship. All music played or sung during the wedding should express a Christian message appropriate to the occasion. Resurrection Blue Springs prefers live music with provision of a clavinova. Please discuss your selections with the pastor.

The couple is responsible for the purchase of any music not currently found in the church’s music library.

WEDDING PARTY
It is important the exact times indicated for the rehearsal and for the wedding are observed. Care should be taken to have all members of the wedding party in their places at the times indicated. The ring bearer and flower girls must be four years of age or older.

All members of the wedding party and friends should be reminded: Smoking is not permitted inside the church. No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the church or on the church grounds.

PHOTOGRAPHERS/VIDEOGRAPHERS
Resurrection encourages the couple to employ a professional photographer for the wedding. No flash photos are permitted following the processional. The photographer must remain in one position at the rear of the sanctuary. Flash photos may once again be taken during the couple’s recessional. The photographer may not come any earlier than the designated times listed in the section entitled Scheduling Your Wedding.

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Requests are often made to videotape wedding services. The wedding party is responsible for providing personnel for this service. The camera must be placed on a tripod in an inconspicuous position. For more details, “Guidelines for Photographers and Videographers” are available through the Wedding Coordinator.

**FLOWERS AND DECORATION**

Altar flowers are provided by the bridal party. The flower girl may only scatter silk flower petals. Decorations of any kind may not be attached to the pews, (chairs), or any other furniture by gluing, nailing, pinning or taping. The bride and florist should consult with the Wedding Coordinator about the way decorations may be placed on the ends of the pews along the center aisle. All decorations, flowers, candles, etc. must be removed from the building immediately following the service.

No decorations belonging to the church may be moved. The florist may not arrive more than two hours before the wedding.

**CANDLES**

The church will provide the altar candles. If candelabra are brought in for use, the candles must be in hurricane glass covers. Aisle candles are permitted in hurricane lamps only.

If the couple desires a unity candle, it is their responsibility to provide the candles and the candleholder(s). The lighting will be officiated by the pastor.

**RESTRICTIONS**

Only bubbles may be used outside the church for sending the couple off. No rice, birdseed or confetti.

**WEDDING CONTRACT**

The contract is required to ensure the agreement between the parties. The scheduled dates and times are plainly stated as well as the names of the bride and groom.

**FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND FEES**

The $50.00 non-refundable deposit and $100.00 pre-marital counseling fee are required at the time the wedding is scheduled.

An invoice of financial responsibilities will be sent a minimum of two weeks prior to the wedding date. The balance must be in the church office on the Monday before the wedding day. Please make all payments in the form of a check payable to “The Church of the Resurrection.”

**SCHEDULE OF WEDDING FEES**

**BLUE SPRINGS SANCTUARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deposit</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Premarital Preparation Course</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Chapel (offered at Leawood campus)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Couple’s or their parents’ tithes or offerings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>can be weighed against this fee.)</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Musical Accompanist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wedding Coordinator</td>
<td>$175.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sound technician</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Varies on setup of musicians.)</td>
<td>$50.00 – $75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custodial services</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$1,175.00 – $1,200.00

Total will vary depending on musical choices. $1,175.00 – $1,200.00 and tithes and offerings where applicable.

Use of the Fellowship Hall will be reserved for members only and will be determined based on the building usage calendar.

**OFFSITE WEDDINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deposit</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premarital Counseling Course</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Services of Pastor</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

$500.00