

## **New Hope UMC Wedding Policy Guidelines for the Service of Christian Marriage**

1. A wedding in the church is a service of worship. The chancel is already appropriately appointed. Rearrangement or moving of furniture in the chancel is not allowed without consultation and approval of the pastor.
2. The only flowers allowed are two arrangements, one on each of the flower stands. Additional candles may be used. The flowers and additional candles are the responsibility of the wedding couple. When the flowers can be used for the Sunday worship service, please notify the flower chairperson.
3. The pastor should be notified of the wedding as far in advance as possible. The date of the wedding, the rehearsal and the time of day for those should be cleared through the pastor before being placed on the church calendar. Also, if the fellowship hall of the church is to be used for the reception, this date should be cleared with Mrs. Zelma Rawls. She should also be notified of the wedding date and rehearsal.
4. The wedding couple will be responsible for the cleaning of the church and fellowship hall before and after the rehearsal, wedding, and reception.
5. The minister is always honored to be asked to officiate at the wedding. If a minister other than New Hope's is desired, or in addition to New Hope's, this request will be made through New Hope's minister. The discipline requires that the pastor plan counseling sessions with the bride and groom prior to the service.
6. Planning appropriate music for weddings in the church is necessary and should be done through arrangements with New Hope's organist. The minister shall have final approval of the music. It is expected that musical selections shall reflect our basic understanding of the wedding ceremony as a Christian worship experience. If a guest organist is desired, this must be approved through consultation with the church organist. It is the responsibility of the couple to make arrangements with the organist. The fee will be discussed at this time.
7. Flash photography during the wedding ceremony is strongly discouraged. Time exposures and recordings during the service may be arranged with the minister. Ample opportunities for pictures will be given before and after the ceremony.

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8. There is no charge for the use of the church if one of the persons being married is a member of New Hope or the parent(s) of one of the couple is a member of New Hope.

Fees for non-members are:

- \$50 for the use of the church building for rehearsal and wedding.
  - \$25 for the use of fellowship hall for reception. The couple will also have to furnish their own supplies.
9. Guidelines of the wedding policy is the same for members and non-members of New Hope.

## **New Hope UMC Funeral Policy**

1. A minister other than New Hope's may be used to assist with the funeral service. New Hope's minister should be notified as soon as possible.
2. No charge for using the church for members or non-members for services. No charge for cemetery for members. Non-members will be considered on a case by case basis.
3. Notify the choir director and organist as soon as possible.
4. Cemetery committee should be notified as soon as possible.