

THE WEDDING SERVICE

PRESBYTERIAN DISCIPLES CHURCH
PAWHUSKA, OKLAHOMA

The following information is designed for prospective brides, their families, and anyone else who might be planning a wedding service in our church. The following information was approved by the Council of Elders of this Church and shall be read before any plans are made.

For Christians, the wedding is a sacred ceremony. Christ sanctified and blessed the wedding by his own physical presence at a wedding at Cana of Galilee. It is fitting and proper that the important step of marriage be taken in the Church. For the Christian, the Church is more than a pretty setting for the wedding service; it is the symbol that the couple will lay their lives in dependence on God.

The wedding is a worship service, and must adhere to the standards of Presbyterian Disciples Church Worship, as would any other service in our Church. It is a service to the Glory of God, the Father, and the Holy Spirit, a man and a woman who desire that their marriage be blessed and sanctified by the living presence of the Holy Spirit.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR USE OF FACILITIES FOR WEDDINGS at PRESBYTERIAN DISCIPLES CHURCH Pawhuska, Oklahoma

1. **Incorporation of General Policies:** These policies and procedures for weddings shall be a supplement to, not a replacement of, the General Policies and Procedures for use of church facilities. Requests for use of facilities for the purpose of a wedding shall comply with these wedding policies and procedures in addition to the general policies and procedures.
2. **Requested Date and Time:** The date and time requested for all weddings shall be cleared with the pastor and church office before completion of the Request for Use of Facilities form. For non-members, weddings shall not be held later than 4:00 p.m. on Saturdays in order to give the custodian ample time to have the church facilities prepared for Sunday morning worship.
3. **Confirmation of Date and Time:** All weddings to be performed in this church shall first be approved by the Council of Elders. Confirmation of the date and time for any wedding in this church shall be made only after the Council of Elders approval of the Request for Use of the Facilities form.
4. **The Minister:** It is expected that the pastor of the church will perform all weddings. As a part of the ministry of this church no fee or gratuity is expected from members.
5. **Guest Ministers:** Couples who wish to be married in this church by a minister who is not the pastor of this church shall first obtain permission from the pastor of this

church. If permission is granted, the pastor will invite the requested minister to perform the wedding service.

6. **Pre-marriage Conferences:** Before the wedding date, the prospective bride and groom will arrange for counseling sessions with the pastor. These sessions should be planned and held as far in advance of the wedding date as possible. The pastor will advise the couple on the solemnity of marriage vows, and help them in making their wedding plans.
7. **Wedding Rehearsal:** The pastor shall be in charge of the details of the wedding rehearsal. Those persons connected with providing services for the wedding; wedding planners, florists, photographers, videographers, etc., should be informed by the bride and/or her family that the rehearsal and service are under the direction and oversight of the pastor.
8. **Wedding Music:** "Such music as accompanies the wedding ceremony should direct attention to God, who sanctifies marriage and special care should be taken to assure that it is suitable and reverent." Directory for Worship, Chapter 7

Recognizing that the wedding in the church is a service of worship, the criteria for selecting the music is already set. Both vocal and instrumental music for the wedding service should be music, which would be suitable for use in any joyous service of praise and worship.

To avoid confusion and misunderstanding it is advisable to consult with the pastor before making any definite choices of music. This is especially important regarding solos.

It is up to the bride to choose a suitable pianist/organist. If the person desired is other than one of our church's regular pianist/organist, permission should first be secured.

9. **Photography:** Because a wedding is a worship service, photographs and flash photos shall not be taken during the wedding service. A video camera may be utilized in designated areas only. The wedding party may return to the chancel after the service if photographs are desired.
10. **Decorations:** Decorations for the wedding should be in keeping with the atmosphere of a worship service. Our Sanctuary's simple beauty does not lend itself to elaborate displays. Floral arrangements should not detract from the worship center. The symbols of the sacraments, the table and baptismal font, may not be moved or covered. Flowers and candelabra may not be placed in the chancel in such a way as not to conceal the communion table, and should be as simple as possible. Care should be taken in the use of candles to see that they do not drip or become a fire hazard. Window decorations should be simple and care should be taken to see that they do not obstruct the heating/cooling vents. Nothing may be tacked, nailed or fastened in any way to the woodwork or walls.
11. **Confetti or Throws:** Confetti, bubbles, birdseed, or other "throws" shall not be distributed, used or thrown inside the church facilities. Due to environmental

concerns, there shall be no throwing of rice or release of balloons out doors on church property.

12. **Receptions:** The Church Fellowship Hall and kitchen may be reserved for a reception following the wedding. The request for this should be made at the time that the initial wedding plans are being set.
13. **Alcohol and Tobacco:** There shall be no alcoholic beverages allowed on church property. There shall be no use of tobacco products in any church building.
14. **Keys:** Subject to the general policy provisions for church key deposits, a church key may be made available one day prior to the service, or earlier at the discretion of the pastor. Church keys are to be returned to the office by the next business day.
15. **Fees:** Fees for the use of church facilities and church personnel reflect the actual costs incurred by the church for heating/cooling, electricity, and time expended by personnel. Fees for church facilities are due at least one week prior to the wedding service. Fees for church personnel are due prior to the end of the wedding service. The following fees have been established by the Council of Elders:

Wedding in Sanctuary	\$ 250	None, considered included in stewardship gift
Fellowship Hall/Kitchen	\$ 100	None, considered included in stewardship gift
Pastor	\$ 225	To family's discretion
Organist	\$ 100	To family's discretion
Custodial	\$ 30	\$30
Sound/Video	\$ 100	\$100

The above information is not to be interpreted as a set of "rules and regulations" arbitrarily handed down. It is for the guidance of the bride and others involved in planning the wedding so that inconvenient and possible embarrassing situations may be avoided.

It is our desire to make your wedding in this church the dignified, sacred and yet joyous occasion that it should be. We feel the above information aids in achieving that end. Your pastor can help you answer any further questions you may have.

The Pastor
The Council of Elders
Presbyterian Disciples Church

Adopted by the Council of Elders of PDC on March 10, 2020