

**Weddings
at
Grace Community Church**



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Table of Contents

Page

2	The Sanctifying of Marriage
2	Your Wedding
3	Arrangements
4	Music
4	Director of Music
4	Soloists and or Instrumentalists
4	Sound & Lighting Technicians
5	Photographs
5	Dressing Rooms
6	Flowers & Communion
6	Rice and Birdseed
7	Fees
8	Marriage License
8	Parking
8	Alcoholic Beverages
8	Miscellaneous
9	Contacts

The Sanctifying of Marriage

Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. For Christians, marriage is a covenant before God through which a man and a woman are called to live together their lives of discipleship. In a service of Christian marriage, a lifelong commitment is made by a woman and a man to each other, publicly witnessed and acknowledged by the community of faith.

As Jesus Christ has blessed this relationship, and it has been declared holy throughout the life of this church, those married in the sight of God are promised God's help as they enter into the joys and duties of life together. God calls Christians to increase not only in their love for each other but in their love for God, so that, with God's help, they may create a home in which they and their children can truly grow in grace.

Your Wedding

It is preferable that a Christian marriage be celebrated in the place where the community gathers for worship. As a service of Christian worship, the marriage service is under the direction of the pastor and the supervision of the Session. The marriage service focuses upon marriage as a gift of God and as an expression of the Christian life.

In preparation for the marriage service, the pastor asked to lead the service shall provide for a discussion with the man and woman to assist them in fulfilling their marriage commitments. Therefore, the couple and the pastor will meet prior to the service for counseling and planning.

If the pastor is convinced after discussion with the couple that commitment, responsibility, maturity, or Christian understanding are so lacking that the marriage is unwise, the pastor shall assure the couple of the church's continuing concern for them but not conduct the ceremony. In making this decision the pastor may seek the counsel of the Session.

Arrangements

Only members of this congregation may be married here by a pastor of this church. We don't schedule weddings until either the bride or the groom has been an active member and regular participant in the church for at least six months. The Session must give permission for outside pastors at the recommendation of the pastor prior to any arrangements.

Before settling on a definite date for the wedding or making any other arrangements, including reception arrangements, call the Church Office (561-395-2811) to make sure facilities, the pastor, the wedding consultant, technicians, and custodian are available. At that time, we will be able to reserve the time and space you need. At the same time, you can make arrangements for your rehearsal date and time.

The church office will provide an application for wedding arrangements and a facilities usage form. When the forms are completed, the pastor will review the application and approve the wedding, date, and time. Upon the application approval, the front office will secure the wedding consultant, technicians, custodian and any other church staff for contract that is needed.

Because the Sanctuary and Church School rooms must be in order for Sunday morning worship, the Session has ruled that there will be no weddings or receptions on Saturday that cannot be concluded by seven o'clock that evening, unless special arrangements are made well in advance or in case of dire emergency.

Further assistance in planning and carrying out the details of the wedding will be given by the pastor in conjunction with the wedding consultant who is a member of this church. The front office will ensure that the wedding consultant will contact the couple desiring marriage at least one month before the wedding. The wedding consultant will be present to assist the pastor and the couple during the rehearsal and the wedding.

Music

Music suitable for the marriage service directs attention to God and expresses the faith of the church. The congregation may join in hymns and other musical forms of praise and prayer. Many songs which have been commonly used for weddings, though appropriate in other situations, are out of place in the church if they are secular and fail to add to the spiritual content of the service. Appropriate beautiful music is plentiful, and the Director of Music Ministry would be pleased to discuss options with you. You should arrange for an early conference with the organist to choose the music. The Director of Music Ministry and Pastor may refuse music deemed unsuitable for Christian worship. Live music and solos are preferred and encouraged for the wedding ceremony.

The Organist

The organist of this church is to be employed if available and must be consulted as to music and dates. The bride should arrange for a consultation with the Director of Music Ministry at least four (4) weeks prior to the wedding. Please contact the Director of Music Ministry six to eight (6-8) weeks prior to the wedding if elaborate music is contemplated.

Soloists and/or Instrumentalists

A vocal or instrumental soloist, though not essential, may enhance the service. Though the organist is available to work with musicians other than the regular soloist of the church, a consultation with the organist must precede the engagement of any additional musicians.

Lighting and Sound

A sound technician of this church is to be employed and must be consulted as to desired sound and microphone needs. The bride and groom should arrange a consultation with the technician at least four weeks prior to the wedding.

There is one wedding lighting setting available to couples desiring marriage. If you desire a special lighting setting you must indicate that on your facility use request form.

Photographs

Because the wedding ceremony is a worship service, flash photographs will be limited to the center aisle five seats down from the foyer during the procession. No other flash photographs will be permitted during the ceremony. The wedding ceremony begins when the procession starts down the aisle and concludes with the Benediction. Pictures may be taken in the foyer by the official photographer before the bride actually enters the Sanctuary. Pictures may also be taken in the Sanctuary after the service is over.

If there is a wedding program printed for the service, it must state that no photographs may be taken in the Sanctuary during the ceremony.

Videotaping may only be done from the sound room upstairs, in the back of the Sanctuary. The camera must be set-up on a tripod thirty (30) minutes prior to the beginning of the service and may be operated in the sound room. It is permissible to place an unmanned camera at the extreme southwest corner of the chancel area. It must be in place 45 minutes before the service begins. Please provide the name(s) and contact information of your photographer and/or videographer to the Wedding Coordinator.

Dressing Rooms

The Bride's Room (Women's Restroom) is located just inside the west door into the foyer. The Groom's Room is in the Allen Room that is on the east side of the chancel. These rooms should be cleared of personal belongings immediately after the ceremony unless the reception is at the church.

Flowers

Flowers, decorations, and other appointments should be appropriate to the place of worship, enhance the worshipers' consciousness of the reality of God, and reflect the integrity and simplicity of Christian life.

Floral designs are left to your discretion. Usually simple floral pieces are as effective in the church as lavish arrangements. No tacks or any kind of tape are to be used on the woodwork of the church. When using the church's vases the florist will provide the liners.

Arrangements should be made to have the decorations removed from the building after the ceremony. Flowers may be left for Sunday worship. This must be discussed in advance with the administrative assistant.

Florists should be told that the custodians will be here 2 hours prior to service. If additional time is required, the custodians must be paid overtime. Cords are available for marking off reserved pews. Church vases may not be removed from the building.

Communion

When the couple requests communion to be served during the ceremony, it is important to note that communion is always served to all believers in the congregation and not solely to the bride and groom.

Rice, Birdseed, and Rose Petals

Birdseed is to be used instead of rice, confetti, or other paper material for showering the couple as they leave the church. To avoid having the seed tracked back into the church; it should not be distributed to the guests until the bride and groom are ready to leave the church for the final time.

Rose petals may be used in the sanctuary down the center aisle. If this option is elected there would be an additional hour fee for the custodian.

Fees

Mandatory Fees:

Pastor	(pre-marriage counseling, rehearsal, and wedding)	Honorarium
Wedding Consultant (required for all Sanctuary weddings)		\$250
Technician (sound and lights)		\$200
Custodians (rehearsals and up to 4 hours for wedding)		\$200
	Each additional hour	\$25

Special Fees:

Organist	\$275*
Soloist	\$175*
Pew Torches	Each \$10

Final payment of all applicable fees (checks should be made out to the appropriate individuals) must be received in the church office fourteen (14) days prior to the wedding.

In the event of a necessary cancellation, all fees will be returned to the payer within fourteen (14) days of the cancellation.

*Depends on individual organist and soloist selected.

**Requests for additional services of time, facilities, or personnel are negotiable.

Marriage License

Please give your license to the pastor at the rehearsal, which is usually the night before the wedding.

A Florida marriage license must be obtained. The couple must appear together to apply for the license. The license is good for sixty (60) days after the date of its issuance. If either or both of the couple have been divorced, proof of divorce will be asked for at the time of application for the license.

Parking

There will be no parking along the church front and side driveways unless the cars are attended to at all times. There is adequate space in the parking lot.

Alcoholic Beverages

No beverages or refreshments containing alcohol are permitted on the church premises at any time. This, of course, also applies to weddings and receptions held in the church.

Miscellaneous

Promptness at your rehearsal is a courtesy, which will be very much appreciated. **Rehearsals are not to be more than one hour in length.**

The kitchen should be left clean and in order. Food, decorations, etc. should be removed promptly.

Contacts

Grace Community Church – (561) 395-2811

www.graceboca.org

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Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00am Contemporary Worship in the Sanctuary; 9:15am Children's Sunday School; 10:15am Contemporary Worship in the Enrichment Center; 11:15am Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary.

Notes