

Wedding Policies
First United Methodist Church
Independence, Kansas

Adopted: September 16, 2002

Proposed Revision: February 28, 2008

1. Members and immediate family of members may use the buildings of First United Methodist Church for a wedding, rehearsal dinner and/or reception if the rooms needed are not in use for ministries of the church. The buildings are not available for the wedding of non-members.
2. The pastor of First United Methodist Church will schedule all weddings held in the church. A couple desiring that another pastor be invited to assist or preside at their service, may make that request of the pastor of First United Methodist Church.
3. The wedding, rehearsal, and appointments for premarital conversation should be scheduled with the pastor and the administrative assistant at least 60 days prior to the date desired for the wedding.
4. A couple seeking to be married at First United Methodist Church will have three premarital conversations with the pastor. The agenda for these conversations will include:
 - a. Time for getting acquainted, sharing stories.
 - b. Participation in PREPARE, an inventory designed to increase a couple's awareness of their relationship strengths and potential work areas.
 - c. Planning for the wedding service.
5. The wedding is a sacred covenant, in which God is praised, the couple makes solemn vows before God and the people of God, and God's blessings are invited for the marriage. Weddings conducted at First United Methodist Church must be in keeping with the traditions of the United Methodist Church. Music chosen for the service should be appropriate to the worship of God. Selections will be reviewed by the pastor.
6. Couples are responsible for contracting for the services of an organist, pianist and/or other musicians. The fees for such services are negotiated with the musicians. Guest organists must be approved by the choir director or church organist prior to using the organ and are expected to coordinate practice times with the church organist.
7. The First United Methodist Church has a Wedding Coordinator who helps with arrangement of the facilities, the rehearsal and the wedding. A fee is given to the coordinator for his or her services.
8. The furnishings in the sanctuary are not to be removed or rearranged except by agreement of the pastor or the Wedding Coordinator.
9. Candles for the altar are provided by the church. Two seven branch candelabra and pew candle stands are available. The couple will need to provide 'no drip' candles and plastic drop clothes for the candelabra and 'no drip' candles for the pew candle stands. If a wedding candle is used in the service, it also is provided by the couple.

10. Only the designated photographer may take pictures in the sanctuary during the processional. There will be no flash pictures taken during the service itself. During the service, pictures may be taken without flash from the back or the balcony. The service may be video taped from the balcony.
11. There is to be no smoking in the church building or within twenty feet of the doors. Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are not to be consumed in the building or on the premises of the church. Firearms are not to be carried into the building.
12. Couples may make arrangements with the congregation's nursery coordinator to make the nursery available during the wedding service. Do not leave children unattended in the nursery.
13. No rice! After the service, wheat and bird seed may be distributed outside the building and thrown outside the building.
14. An aisle runner may be used but must not be tacked down.
15. The church is not responsible for the loss or damage of personal items brought to the church for use in the wedding or wedding reception or for the loss or damage of gifts brought to the church. The wedding party is expected to remove personal items immediately after the wedding.
16. Use of the kitchen and serving pieces are governed by policy established by the United Methodist Women.

17. **Fee Schedule:**

Sanctuary Utilities, Preparation and Clean-up	\$200
Chapel Utilities, Preparation and Clean-up	\$100
Reception or Rehearsal Dinner in Gault Parlor and Dining Room: Use of Serving Pieces: Set by the United Methodist Women	\$50
Reception or Rehearsal Dinner in Wesley Center: Use of Serving Pieces: Set by the United Methodist Women	\$200
Personnel:	
Clergy	\$0
Musicians	Negotiated with the Musicians
Wedding Coordinator	\$150
Audio System Technician	\$45
Prepare: Pre-marital Inventory	\$35
Media Equipment and Technician	\$100