

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING SERVICE AT NAZARETH CHURCH

(Revised 6/15/11)

THE CHRISTIAN WEDDING AS WORSHIP

The wedding service, which you are anticipating, is different from many other wedding services in that it is a Christian wedding. The very fact that you have come to your church for counsel and guidance indicates that your concern is for a Christian wedding. Christian couples want their wedding ceremony to be characterized not only by dignity, reverence and joy, but by the very spirit of the God Jesus made known. A Christian wedding service imposes particular responsibilities just as it offers particular blessings. These responsibilities are yours. They are also responsibilities of this congregation of Christian people. Any wedding service is subject to the approval of the Pastor and Session of Nazareth Presbyterian Church. Let us look, then, at some of the features that will make your Christian wedding different.

IT IS AN ACT OF WORSHIP

The Christian wedding service is an act of worship. This is the first thing to remember. The Christian wedding is a service in which Christians, particularly you as bride and groom, come together to offer special thanks and praise and to ask God's blessing upon your life together as husband and wife. As bride and groom you have particular reason for thanks and praise. It was God who brought you together and who will guide you as husband and wife. The Christian congregation gathered with you on your wedding day also has reason to thank and praise God on your behalf. Here the congregation joins with you in thanks and is seeking God's blessing upon you. For both of you and for those gathered with you at your wedding, the Christian marriage service is first of all an act of worship.

GOD IS THE OBJECT OF OUR WORSHIP

The object of worship for Christians is always God. This is the second point to remember. This means that as we worship, our attention is to be drawn first and last to God. For your wedding, this means that God should have first place. The attention of everyone present should be drawn to Him. Even though you, as bride and groom, are important, you will want to be sure that nothing in your wedding distracts from giving God the place of greatest importance.

It is not difficult for things other than God to assume the most important place at your wedding. It may be music, the flowers, or the attire. It may even be the way in which you, as bride or groom, conduct yourselves. In a Christian wedding service God comes first. It is God who is being worshipped and whose blessing is being sought.

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

Your wedding service is important to all of us in this congregation. We want to help you make it the meaningful and beautiful occasion that you want it to be.

The first step is to contact the Pastor of Nazareth. He or she will arrange for the necessary counseling session(s). It is expected that a minimum of four hours of counseling is necessary, and six hours is suggested. The Pastor will make the appropriate recommendation to the Session to approve the marriage. Approval by the Session is mandatory for non-members. To schedule a specific date and time, both the Pastor and the moderator of the Buildings and Grounds Committee must be consulted. The Pastor can assist you with these arrangements.

A visiting minister may perform the service with the approval of both the Nazareth pastor and the Session. Nazareth's pastor must be involved with the service.

PHYSICAL FACILITIES

The physical facilities belonging to the congregation can be made available to you upon request. Other people and groups do use them frequently. As you begin to formulate your plans you will want to confer with the Church Secretary, the Pastor and the moderator of the Buildings and Grounds Committee to reserve the facilities you will need for your wedding.

The following facilities are likely to be of most interest to you.

- Sanctuary
- Choir room (used for the bride or groom and attendant's dressing room)
- Amelia Means classroom (used for the bride or groom and attendant's dressing room)
- Fellowship Hall (with kitchen)*
- Family Life Center (with kitchen)*

* Available for the rehearsal dinner and/or reception. Use of either kitchen and all equipment must be approved by the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

No tacks, nails or wires may be fastened to any part of the Sanctuary furnishings, including the pews and floors. Ribbons may be secured to the end of the pews by rubber bands. No changes are to be made to any structure of the church or attachments to the church that require removal of any nails, screws, staples or fasteners of any kind. The Baptismal Font MAY NOT be moved. The Bibles and hymnals are not to be removed from the pews.

Due to the historic nature of the Sanctuary and the threat of fire, the use of candles must be strictly limited. Candles may **NOT** be placed on the pews, used in the windows or carried by members of the wedding party. Candelabra may be used provided a protective floor covering is used. It is the responsibility of the wedding party to protect the carpet and furnishings from wax. We request that you use dripless candles for your service.

If necessary church furniture may be moved; however, it is the responsibility of the wedding party to replace all furniture to its original position. This includes returning chairs to the choir loft. You must use special care not to damage the floor or the furniture.

CLEANING of each portion of the facility used is the responsibility of the wedding party. Failure to do so will result in a charge to the wedding party as outlined in the attached Schedule of Expenses (page 5). If you would like our Buildings and Grounds Committee to contract a cleaning service, please indicate that on the Schedule of Expenses. **All cleaning must be done prior to the 10:30 Sunday morning worship service.**

NO CONFETTI OR RICE is to be used anywhere on the church ground. Birdseed may be used outside the church building.

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES shall be served on the church premises.

SMOKING is **NOT** permitted in any of the church buildings.

REHEARSALS

The rehearsal is important as a time for every person to become familiar with his or her part in the ceremony. Each member of the wedding party is urged to be on time for the rehearsal. Since the rehearsal is in preparation for a worship service, the minister will be in charge of both the rehearsal and the wedding. The bridal consultant or other person who directs the wedding is under the minister's supervision.

PICTURES

Please tell all family members and friends that picture taking will **NOT** be permitted in the Sanctuary during the wedding service. Photographers should remain at the back of the Sanctuary. It is the responsibility of the bride to inform the photographer of this prior to the wedding. Video cameras will be permitted if they are set up in the back on a tripod and not moved.

MUSIC

Music, as it is used by the Church, is a means of expression in worship. Wedding music should be consistent with and helpful to the spirit of the Christian wedding service. Usually texts of wedding solos are taken from the hymnals or from the scriptures. Our organist and minister will be happy to assist you in your choice of music, soloist, and additional musical instruments.

A guest organist must be approved by our church organist as she is responsible for the organ. Checks for musicians should be made out to them personally and are payable before the rehearsal.

FLOWERS

Any appropriate floral decorations are accepted. If prior arrangements are made, flowers may be left in the church for the enjoyment of the congregation during Sunday worship service. Flowers may also be taken to shut-ins or the sick within our church family. Please let your wishes be known to the Pastor or the Church Secretary.

PERSONAL ITEMS

The church is **NOT** responsible for items left before, during, or after the wedding rehearsal and wedding.

QUESTIONNAIRE:

Please have the answers to the following questions available when meeting with the Pastor and/or Buildings & Grounds Committee.

- Date and time of wedding?
- Will there be a rehearsal? Date and time?
- Will there be a rehearsal dinner? Date and time? Will church facility be used?
- Will there be a reception? Where?
- Which of our facilities will you use?
 - Sanctuary
 - Fellowship Hall
 - Family Life Center
 - Kitchen
 - Utensils, appliances, dinnerware
 - Other
- Do you plan to arrange the cleaning of the facilities or do you want our Buildings and Grounds Committee to contract a cleaning service?

**SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES FOR A WEDDING SERVICE AT
NAZARETH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This will acknowledge receipt and understanding of and agreement to the Wedding policy of Nazareth Presbyterian Church. It will also indicate acceptance of the following fees related to use of the facilities as due and payable in the church office 7 days prior to the wedding date. Janitorial fees will be considered a deposit and may be refunded if the wedding party cleans the facilities satisfactorily as deemed by the Buildings and Grounds Committee Moderator.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

2. INVOICE—FEES FOR USE OF FACILITIES

A. MEMBERS

Janitorial:

Sanctuary	\$200 x number of times _____ = _____	
Fellowship Hall	\$300 x number of times _____ = _____	
Family Life Center	\$300 x number of times _____ = _____	

TOTAL _____

B. NON-MEMBERS

Facilities:

Sanctuary	\$70 x number of times _____ = _____	
Fellowship Hall	\$85 x number of times _____ = _____	
Family Life Center	\$85 x number of times _____ = _____	

Janitorial:

Sanctuary	\$200 x number of times _____ = _____	
Fellowship Hall	\$300 x number of times _____ = _____	
Family Life Center	\$300 x number of times _____ = _____	

TOTAL _____

The fees for use of the Sanctuary and/or the Fellowship Hall includes the use of the choir room and the Amelia Means Classroom.

Wedding party to contract cleaning service - _____
Initial and date

Nazareth's Buildings and Grounds
Committee to contract cleaning service- _____
Initial and date

All cleaning must be done prior to the 10:30 Sunday morning worship service.

3. MINISTER: Members: At your discretion

Non-Members: \$250 Payable to the minister

ORGANIST: As agreed by you and organist.