

PLANNING A WEDDING AT EMMANUEL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God. Weddings in the Episcopal Church are solemn and celebratory worship services, celebrated according to The Book of Common Prayer.

Church Affiliation and Episcopal Canon Law

The Canons (church law) of the Episcopal Church define a “member” as someone who regularly attends Sunday worship, supports the parish financially and is involved in one or more of the parish’s ministries. If an Episcopal priest presides at the wedding, then the marriage must conform to the Episcopal Church’s Canons regarding counseling, witnesses and advance notification.

Counseling and Arrangements

The Canons of the Episcopal Church require that at least one of the persons be baptized, that there be premarital counseling; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; that the marriage conform to the laws of the State and the Canons of this Church. Emmanuel clergy require a minimum of three 1-hour counseling sessions in addition to the rehearsal. All counseling is done by appointment with a member of the clergy as assigned by the Rector. Call the parish office to make these arrangements (961-2393). Weddings performed by non-Episcopal clergy do not fall under our canons, though pre-marital counseling is still highly recommended. Non-Episcopal weddings will not be recorded in Emmanuel’s parish registers and may be recorded in the visiting clergy-person’s parish register or elsewhere.

Details having to do with flowers, photography time, receiving lines, etc. are coordinated through the Wedding Committee chairperson, Mrs. Barbara Russell (962-0904). A meeting with Mrs. Russell must take place to discuss Emmanuel’s wedding policies before premarital counseling can begin.

Setting a Wedding Date Canon Law requires at least 30-days notice in order for a priest in this Church to solemnize the marriage of any persons. After meeting with a member of the clergy, a date for the ceremony may be set. (Non-members may contact the parish office.)

Persons who have been divorced and wish to be remarried in the Episcopal Church should allow well in excess of 30 days, because the Bishop’s consent for a remarriage must first be obtained before a date for the ceremony can be set. The priest cannot request the Bishop’s consent until the premarital counseling is completed, and the Bishop requires at least 30 days to consider each request.

No weddings are scheduled during the season of Lent.

Setting a Time Weddings at Emmanuel typically take place on Saturdays, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Friday evening weddings may be scheduled at the discretion of the Rector. Dates for scheduling a wedding are subject to the parish calendar.

Place Marriages are solemnized within the sacred space of Emmanuel parish or by special arrangement in other sacred space.

Fees Because of the expenditure of church resources for weddings, only members of Emmanuel parish (for at least 6 months) may be married without a fee for use of the sanctuary. Their regular financial support provides funds needed to maintain the building. Non-members may be married at Emmanuel for a fee. (See schedule, enclosed.) To discuss membership, please make an appointment with one of our clergy.

Music All music is under the direction of Earl Naylor, Emmanuel's Organist/Choirmaster. Soon after a date is set, the bridal couple must schedule an appointment with Mr. Naylor (961-2393) to discuss music for the wedding. Placement of vocal music in the service is under the direction of the clergy. Secular music is allowed by permission of the clergy.

Visiting Priests and Organists

No visiting clergy, musicians, soloists or persons other than the bridal party may take part in the rehearsal or wedding without permission of Emmanuel. Inasmuch as the organists of most congregations rely on the revenue from weddings to supplement their salaries, it is customary to charge a "bench fee," a fee paid to the host organist when a couple invites a guest organist to play for a wedding. This policy honors the profession and the resident organist's position, and it helps uphold the congregation's musical standards. Our bench fee is \$150.

Bulletins The church provides regular service covers for the wedding bulletins. All information for the bulletin must be received in the parish office the Monday preceding the wedding ceremony. This includes a list of the names of those participating in the service as they should appear in the bulletin. If you would like to make your own bulletin, the cover material and content must be pre-approved by the clergy. The parish staff can assist you in providing the content for your service bulletin.

Rehearsal **Rehearsals are usually held the day preceding the wedding and begin promptly at 5:00 p.m.** It is the responsibility of the bridal couple to see that all members of the wedding party are present and on time for the rehearsal. Rehearsals last about 45 minutes and are set within the context of worship. It is understood that at rehearsals, the priest alone gives the instructions and makes all decisions. One or two members of the Altar Guild will be present at rehearsals and weddings to assist the clergy and the wedding party and to help direct florists and photographers.

Marriage License

The marriage license is signed at the time of the rehearsal. For weddings performed by Episcopal clergy, the license must be presented to the parish office the Monday prior to the ceremony.

Pictures **Absolutely no flash pictures may be taken during the wedding ceremony except of the bride and her father/escort processing up the aisle.** This includes the Bridal Procession and the Recessional. **This rule is strict and applies to professional photographers and guests alike.** Pictures during the ceremony may be taken without a flash from the balcony. Formal pictures with a flash may be taken before or after the service. Photography time in the church after the service is limited to 20 minutes after guests have left. Videos are permitted only from the balcony. An approximate photography schedule should be set in advance.

Flowers The bridal couple or their families may provide the Altar flowers in addition to the usual bouquets. Vase liners provided by the parish are used for Altar flowers and may be picked up during the week prior, Mon–Fri, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. If the flowers are to be removed after the wedding, vases must be provided by the florist. Altar vases and vase liners belonging to the parish cannot be taken from the church. Only a member of the Altar Guild may place the flowers on the altar. **No other flowers/greenery or decorations are permitted in the church, except for small arrangements on the aisle candles and bows on pews.** Decorative arrangements may be hung on the doors at the entrance of the church. Aisle Runners present a safety hazard and are not permitted.

Candles Eight 20-inch candles are used on the altar in special tall brass candlesticks. No other candles (including "Unity Candles") are permitted. Aisle candles are available for the center aisle and must be reserved in advance from the church. **Note: There is an additional fee for aisle candles.**

Rice For environmental and safety reasons, rice, birdseed, confetti, etc. may not be thrown. Bubbles are allowed outside the building.

Dressing Space is available in the parish house for the wedding party to dress before the ceremony. Dressing at church may begin 2 hours before the ceremony, but not longer.

EXPENSES

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
Use of the Sanctuary	\$0	*\$1,000

* A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is required to hold a wedding date on the parish calendar.

Organist Fee	\$200	\$300
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(There is an additional charge of \$50 per musician hired due to increased rehearsal time. There will be a \$150 fee if you choose not to use Emmanuel's organist and provide your own organist or musicians.)

Sexton Fee	\$50	\$75
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(Plus overtime for hours beyond normal expectation and for receptions.)

Use of Aisle Candles	\$35	\$50
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There is no "fee" for receiving any of the sacraments, including marriage. However, it is customary for couples to give an honorarium to their clergy person in thanks for their time spent counseling the couple and planning the ceremony.

There is no charge for altar candles, kneelers, roping.

An itemized statement of fees will be sent from the church office. Checks should be made payable to Emmanuel Episcopal Church and are to be sent in advance of the rehearsal.

All fees may be adjusted at the discretion of the Rector.

The Altar Guild provides a Wedding Committee to assist at the rehearsal and wedding; and its chairperson, Mrs. Barbara Russell (962-0904), may be contacted for further information.