

Congratulations and best wishes on your engagement and upcoming wedding!

Please know that you can count on the guidance and support of this congregation throughout the wedding planning process. To that end, we offer you this booklet which outlines the marriage service policies and procedures found in the Directory for Worship of the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

According to the Directory for Worship:

Christian marriage should 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 minister and the supervision of the session. The marriage ordinarily takes place in a special service which focuses upon marriage as a gift of God and as an expression of the Christian life.

Please review the information contained in this booklet and keep it in mind as you plan your wedding. Careful attention to the marriage service guidelines will ensure that your wedding will be a worshipful and joyful occasion.

We look forward to meeting with you and sharing in the celebration of your marriage here at Rockledge Presbyterian Church!

**Yours in Christ,
Rev. Sandy Lacey, Pastor**

Marriage Preparation

In preparation for the marriage service the minister will counsel with each couple concerning:

1. The nature of their Christian commitment, assuring that at least the man or woman is a professing Christian
2. The legal requirements of the state
3. The privileges and responsibilities of Christian marriage
4. The nature and form of the marriage service
5. The meaning of the marriage vows
6. The resources available to support couples in fulfilling their marriage commitments.

The minister ordinarily meets with each couple over the course of two-three separate one hour sessions, scheduled far enough in advance of the wedding date to ensure that all details related to the marriage service can be adequately addressed.

The wedding ministry of the church is available, schedule permitting, to church members and their families. Other wedding parties may request this ministry with the permission of the Session and the Pastor on a case-by-case basis.

A Wedding Planning Checklist

A. Pre-wedding

- 1) Call the church office at (321) 636-0811 to clear your date on the church calendar as well as the minister's and Wedding Coordinator's schedules.
- 2) Set up an appointment to meet with Pastor Lacey. During this initial visit, the Pastor will get acquainted with you, help you plan your wedding service, and provide whatever counsel may be appropriate. Please note that any decisions related to your wedding at Rockledge Presbyterian Church must be approved by the Pastor.
- 3) Contact the wedding coordinator. They will shepherd you through the wedding process and will consult with you about your plans and assist you during the rehearsal and the wedding service.
- 4) Music to be coordinated through the Wedding Coordinator.
- 5) Submit a \$600.00 check to the church office in order to confirm your wedding date and secure the participation of the Pastor, Organist and Wedding Coordinator. This

deposit shall be delivered to the church office when the wedding is recorded on the church calendar.

Wedding Fees

After the wedding, this amount will be distributed as follows:

Music Director	200.00
Wedding Coordinator	200.00
Building Use	200.00

Customarily, an honorarium is offered to the Pastor.

Wedding receptions in Calvin Hall can be scheduled for an additional fee of \$100.00 and \$50.00 for custodial services.

B. Rehearsal

Schedule a rehearsal date the afternoon or evening of the day before the wedding, in consultation with the minister. Members of the wedding party, including the parents and/or grandparents shall be present in the sanctuary or chapel at the time scheduled for the rehearsal. Promptness will ensure that the rehearsal lasts no longer than the allotted 45 minutes – 1 hour. The minister will conduct the rehearsal and have sole

discretion in all matters related to the wedding service.

C. Wedding Day

Plan for the wedding party to be at the church no earlier than two (2) hours prior to the service. The church parlor serves as the dressing room for the bride and bridal attendants. The groom and groomsmen may use Knox Hall or the library. Members of the wedding party will be responsible for removing any personal items and straightening up the parlor and Knox Hall/library before leaving the church.

Wedding Guidelines

As you plan your wedding at Rockledge Presbyterian Church, please keep these guidelines in mind:

- No alcohol or smoking is permitted in the church.
- The wedding license will ordinarily be delivered to the church office one week prior to the ceremony.
- No center aisle runner is allowed in the Sanctuary.

- No rice, birdseed, balloons, flower petals, or similar items may be thrown in the Sanctuary or at the church entrances
- No wax candles may be used.
- No items may be placed on the communion table.
- No items may be placed on or near the piano or organ.
- Furnishings in the chancel area, such as the communion table shall not be moved.
- Video cameras must be placed in an unobtrusive, stationary position prior to the start of the wedding service.
- Seasonal decorations/vestments shall not be removed from the sanctuary. Any wedding decorations such as pew bows and floral arrangements shall be approved by the Wedding Coordinator.
- The use of cameras by family and friends is not allowed during

the wedding out of respect for the worshipful nature of the service.

- The Wedding Coordinator will meet with the Wedding Photographer prior to the service to review pertinent photography guidelines.

A Final Word

This booklet comes with the Church's pledge to assist you in the wedding planning process and to seek this blessing on your behalf:

*God grant you wisdom and devotion in your
common life so that you may be to each other
a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity,
a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy!
Amen.*

Notes: