

The Wedding Service

The wedding service is, first and foremost, a service of worship. The purpose of the wedding service is to praise God for the loving relationship God has kindled in the lives of the man and the woman wishing to marry, and to ask God to bless their lifelong commitment to one another as husband and wife. Because God is the focus of the service, everything in the service should direct our attention to God and what God is doing in their lives as they begin their marriage.

Each wedding should uniquely reflect the couple being married, as well as their relationship with one another and with God. The Congregation Council has adopted this policy to maintain the integrity of the wedding service as Christian worship.

University Lutheran Church and Student Center Facility

Members of University Lutheran Church and their immediate families have priority in scheduling wedding dates and times.

The congregation believes in extending hospitality to the wider community. Non-members may also use the ULCSC facilities at the discretion of the pastor and/or Congregation Council. The pastor and/or organist have final approval on all wedding arrangements. All other consultants, such as florists, wedding planners and photographers, will obtain approval before proceeding with any arrangements regarding the use of the facilities.

The worship area comfortably seats 180 guests. The fellowship hall will hold approximately 125 – 150 people. All wedding events must conclude no later than 11:00 PM.

Pastor

The pastor of University Lutheran Church and Student Center is in charge of the wedding ceremony and all events connected with it that take place on church property. If the ceremony is held elsewhere, the pastor will preside over the marriage service and all other religious expressions. ULCSC's pastor will officiate at all weddings held at ULCSC unless he/ she agrees to other arrangements. All wedding dates/times are to be scheduled with the pastor.

Scripture

One or more passages from the Bible must be read in the context of the service. A list of suggested passages is provided in the appendix to this policy. Other readings may be used, but they must be appropriate to a Christian service of worship. The pastor has final determination over the use of non-biblical readings.

Vows

The couple is free to use the standard vows in the wedding services, select alternative vows from the list provided in the appendix or write their own vows in consultation with the pastor. In

keeping with the Lutheran understanding that marriage is a partnership of equals, it is customary, but not required that both the bride and groom speak identical vows to one another. Vows must reflect the love, compassion and mutual support of Christian marriage that will sustain a lifelong commitment of fidelity. Care should be taken so that they are neither too specific nor too vague.

Music

All music must reflect the sacred nature of the ceremony. The music should praise God, celebrate God's gifts in marriage and reflect a Christian understanding of marriage. In general, the place for good, meaningful secular wedding music is outside the context of worship (i.e., during the prelude, or at the reception). Instrumental music needs to be selected with care, keeping in mind its original intent and context. Congregational hymn singing is permissible and a good way to encourage participation of the congregation in the worship. A list of suggested songs and hymns is included in the appendix. The pastor will have final determination over the use of music in the service. If organ music is desired, the church organist has right of first refusal at all weddings held at ULCSC.

Parental Involvement

Because our culture and church no longer understand a woman to be the property of either her father or her husband, certain traditional practices are no longer a part of the wedding ceremony. While brides are still welcome to be escorted down the aisle by their fathers, there is no longer any formal "giving of the bride". There are, however, a number of ways parents of the bride and groom can be involved in the blessing of the marriage. Parents may provide a blessing in the context of the service; or mothers, fathers, or both can participate in lighting the Unity Candle; or parents can take part in offering prayers for the couple. The pastor and the couple may have additional suggestions.

Holy Communion

It is appropriate to celebrate Holy Communion as part of the marriage service. The Sacrament reminds the couple that the sacrificial love of Christ binds them to one another and to those who have come to celebrate with them. Everyone in attendance should be invited to share in the Sacrament.

Civil Regulations/License

Oklahoma law requires the couple apply for a marriage license. The civil marriage license must be obtained from the Court Clerk, Cleveland County, Oklahoma. The pastor is responsible for seeing that the license is properly witnessed and returned to the Court Clerk's Office. The state document will be returned after it is recorded. A church certificate of marriage will be issued to the couple after the ceremony. It is highly recommended that the license be applied for as early as possible to avoid any complications prior to the service.

Pre-Marriage Counseling

The pastor determines requirements for pre-marriage counseling for couples at whose marriage he or she will officiate. A fee may be required.

Flowers and Other Decorations

Arrangements for entrance to the church for the florist and others involved in decorating can be made with the church secretary or wedding coordinator. Cut flower arrangements may be placed in the altar area, but may not be placed directly on the altar.

The church will supply two oil-burning candles on the altar. Ten aisle candelabra that use oil-burning candles are available as well. A Unity Candle, if used, must be purchased by the couple and brought to the rehearsal. Any additional preparations must be provided by the wedding party after consultation with the pastor.

Photography

As flash photography detracts from the worshipful nature of the wedding service, no flash photography is allowed during the service itself. This policy should be included in the bulletin and shared with professional photographers and videographers. Photographers and videographers who work during the service should be as unobtrusive as possible.

Weddings in Other Locations

Occasionally the pastor is asked to officiate at weddings outside the ULCSC facility. An additional fee for the pastor may be required. Arrangements with the church organist, if desired, should be negotiated. All information on the individual requirements of the church/facility or location where the service is to be held should be obtained by the couple and provided to the pastor. If the service is held outside Cleveland County, Oklahoma, all information and necessary forms must be gathered from the county by the couple and provided to the pastor. Procedures for the service itself remain the same as if it were held in the ULCSC building.

Miscellaneous

There may be a rehearsal prior to the wedding day. Rehearsal times/dates should be arranged with the pastor.

Rice and bird seed are not to be thrown anywhere on the church grounds. Helium-filled, latex or Mylar balloons should not be released from church property.

Attendants may scatter only silk petals in the aisle of the church. Children serving as attendants should be of school age.

If the bridal party wishes to dress at the church, the couple should advise the church secretary or wedding coordinator so that arrangements can be made.

For more information contact the church office at (405) 321-1584.

Fees and Other Considerations (As of May 17, 2012)

ITEM	MEMBERS (& THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY) ACTIVE SOUL MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS
<u>Use of Facilities</u>		
Worship Area	\$100.00	\$400.00
Reception Area	\$100.00	\$400.00
Clean up fee	\$100.00	\$100.00
Damage deposit	\$100.00	\$100.00
Storage of early service band equipment	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00
<u>Personnel Services</u>		
Pastor	\$150.00	\$200.00
Pastor off-site	\$200.00	\$300.00
Organist		
Rehearsal	\$75.00	\$100.00
Wedding	\$150.00	\$175.00
Soloist rehearsal	Negotiated	Negotiated
Harpichord	\$75.00	\$100.00
Off site	Negotiated	Negotiated
Premarital Counseling	TBD	TBD

Additional Information:

Members are those officially received into church membership and who have regularly attended services for a minimum of three months.

A 50% deposit of the facility fee is required to reserve the date of the wedding. Remaining fees are to be received in the church office no later than one month prior to the service. Make one check payable to "University Lutheran Church" for the use of the facilities. The remaining checks should be written individually as noted above. The church secretary will distribute payment to individuals involved.