

# Wedding Policy for Members of the Dexter United Methodist Church

7643 Huron River Drive, Dexter, MI 48130

Church Phone: 734-426-8480 ☎ E-mail: secretary@dexterumc.org

Rev. Matthew J. Hook, pastor

Rev. Stephen G. Bringardner, pastor of discipleship

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We are glad to be sharing in your wedding, and wish you every happiness. We would like to make your wedding as meaningful as possible, and with that purpose in mind, we offer these guidelines for the use of the church facilities. It should be remembered that the Christian wedding is a service of worship in which we are asking God to bless your relationship. All arrangements should be made with this in mind.

1. Smoking and the consumption of alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any time in the Sanctuary, Education Building, Newkirk Hall or on church property. The pastor may elect not to conduct your rehearsal or wedding if members of the wedding party are under the influence of alcohol.
2. No tacks, pins, nails or screws are to be driven into the walls or furnishings.
3. No rice, confetti or birdseed shall be thrown inside or outside the church buildings.
4. If silk petals are scattered or dropped indoors, please designate a person (or persons) to pick these up following the wedding. Petals from live flowers are never permitted indoors; however, if scattered outdoors, please designate a person to clean up following the wedding.

## THE SERVICE ITSELF

1. It is the wish of our pastors that the service be as personal as possible. If you have any materials you would like to use in the service, they will be glad to discuss this with you.
2. This is a service of Christian Celebration. It is expected that couples wishing to be married in this church share in the common commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord. The Christian marriage ceremony is based on the comparison of Christ and His love for the Church. All the elements of the service should reflect this faith.
3. The minister will share with you in considering what music is fitting for the wedding ceremony.

## MAKING PLANS FOR THE WEDDING IN THE CHURCH

There are certain steps that are necessary in planning for your wedding. The pastors make the following requests:

1. **Talk to the pastor before plans are made.** Your first session together should be scheduled within a month of our confirmation of your date, and will be concerned with your preparation for marriage.
2. You will be expected to attend a pre-marriage class (*e.g.: either the three session class held twice a year at Dexter UMC or some other approved set of classes such as those offered by the United Methodist Church<sup>1</sup> or Samaritan Counseling Services*). The Dexter UMC class is scheduled for spring and fall sessions.
3. One additional session between the couple and pastor should be scheduled within one month prior to your wedding.
4. A counseling session may be scheduled for sometime three to six months after the wedding, if you wish.
5. The bride and groom are responsible for contacting the Dexter UMC organist/pianist regarding the selection of the music. *Although we do allow for other musicians, our organist/pianist has first right of refusal.*
6. The Dexter UMC Wedding Coordinator should be contacted a few weeks prior to the wedding, if they have not already contacted you.
7. The Church Office Staff will contact the couple a few weeks prior to the wedding to finalize arrangements.

## THE WEDDING COORDINATOR \*

We have found that it is most helpful to have someone familiar with the church and the wedding ceremony to assist the wedding party at the time of the rehearsal and the day of the service. Therefore, our wedding coordinator will assist you and the bridal party. They will, among other things:

- Assist the pastor at the rehearsal and at the ceremony, lining up attendants and starting them and the bride down the aisle.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The aisle is 48 ½ feet long*

- Assist in the dressing, pinning corsages and hairpieces; pin boutonnieres on the gentlemen as needed.
- Direct guests in and out of the Sanctuary or Chapel.
- Consult with the photographer and/or florist concerning church policies if the need arises.
- Assure that all wedding fees have been paid.

*If you hire another wedding coordinator to help plan your wedding and reception, please be advised that they have no function at the church. Our coordinator will handle all aspects of the rehearsal and wedding ceremony.*

### **SOUND TECHNICIAN**

We have found it is necessary to have someone familiar with our church sound system available during the rehearsal and wedding service. If you plan to have pre-recorded music, use microphones or other sound enhancements during your wedding a sound technician will be required.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you are planning to use pre-recorded music for your ceremony, please provide **a single CD** with the songs recorded in the correct order for your service. It adds a professional touch to have the music move seamlessly from one selection to the next. This CD must be formatted to play on our system (Windows XP). If you are planning to include a DVD or PowerPoint presentation within your ceremony, please provide **one CD/DVD** formatted to play on our system (The PowerPoint presentation must be compatible with Office 2000 and the DVD must be formatted to play in a DVD player). If you plan to use either of these, **remember they**

**must be submitted no later than 7 days prior to your rehearsal.** Our tech will check your material on our equipment prior to the rehearsal, to insure it will be useable. It may also be available to preview at the rehearsal if you & the pastor so desire. We reserve the right to refuse items not submitted within this time frame.

<sup>1</sup>For **Engaged Encounter** (and *Marriage Encounter*)

Weekends currently scheduled and for more information, check the United Methodist website at <http://www.encounter.org/index.html>

ENGAGED ENCOUNTER – United Methodist is a weekend experience designed to help couples prepare personally and as a couple for marriage. The focus is on the marriage, not on the wedding. "A wedding is a day ... a marriage is a lifetime." Couples are shown communication and decision-making techniques they can use throughout their lifetime together. Engaged Encounter is specifically designed for quiet reflection and discussion by each couple. It is a positive, simple, common-sense experience between two people who are either seriously considering engagement, engaged or recently married. At no time will the couple be asked to share their private experiences with the group.

**IT IS NOT:** -a lecture series -a group sharing experience – a Bible study -or a vacation weekend.

**PLEASE NOTE:** we allow up to two hours before and one hour after the wedding for dressing and pictures. Please plan to remain within these time constraints on the day of your wedding.

### **FEES FOR THE WEDDING**

**\$150 INITIAL DEPOSIT, fee for building use – to secure your date on our calendar**

**\$425 PAID THE WEEK OF YOUR WEDDING, may bring with your marriage license**

**This includes:**

1. Pastor's Honorarium
2. Wedding Coordinator (*for rehearsal and up to 2 hours before & 1 hour following the wedding*)
3. Sound Technician (*for rehearsal & wedding*)

**\$150 - \$200 PAID DIRECTLY TO OUR MUSICIAN, payment timing arranged with her:**

1. Church Organist/Pianist (*for rehearsal & wedding; price range for one vs. two pianists*)

OPTIONAL, only when these are used:

Use of Newkirk Hall or Chapel (*wedding, with pastor's approval*) \$100

Newkirk Hall or Atrium (*reception, based on # of people*) contact the church office

**The License should be brought to the church on or before the Wednesday prior to your rehearsal for preparation and signing.**

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Church Organist/Pianist (Elsi Sly): 734-426-8251 (home),

E-mail: [elsi@hickorylea.com](mailto:elsi@hickorylea.com)

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The aisle is 48 ½ feet long*