

P-3.00.00 POLICIES FOR WORSHIP OCCASIONED BY A WEDDING

P-3.01.00

The Presbyterian Church affirms that all worship depends upon and is a response to the presence of God and to what God has done for the salvation of all who believe. It is our tradition that one of the times the community of God's people gather for corporate worship is in response to a man and a woman being brought together through the rite of Holy Matrimony. The affirmation that a wedding service is an occasion for the church to worship God led the Presbyterian Church of Ruston to affirm the following in regard to a Christian Wedding:

- a. The focus of a wedding is upon God: God's presence in worship and his participation in this particular moment in the life of the church and in the lives of those being brought together through Christian Marriage.
- b. All that happens in and surrounds the worship service should be of such nature as to direct attention to and enable people to glorify God.

In order to implement these basic beliefs, the Session of the Presbyterian Church of Ruston has developed the following policies.

P-3.02.00 Use of the Church

P-3.02.01 Scheduling. All weddings are scheduled through the church office and all fees are to be paid thirty days prior to the wedding.

P-3.02.02 Fees. The fee schedule for weddings is as follows:

	Members	Non-Members
Deposit:	None	\$275
Use of the building:		
Sanctuary, wedding only	No charge	\$400
Sanctuary, wedding & rehearsal	No charge	\$500
Reception (fellowship hall & kitchen)	No charge	\$500
Rehearsal Dinner (fellowship hall & kitchen)	No charge	\$500
<u>Minister:</u>		
Honorarium (minimum suggested)	\$300	\$400
Administrative Support	\$50	\$75
<u>Organist:</u>		
Wedding & Rehearsal	\$225	\$300

Sexton: **It is mandatory that the Sexton be retained for all weddings.**

Wedding	\$75	\$150
Rehearsal Dinner	\$50	\$100
Reception	\$50	\$100

- P-3.02.03** **Wedding Coordinator.** Every wedding shall have a wedding coordinator. The wedding coordinator may be a professional, or family member or friend who has the skills necessary to assist the bridal party at the rehearsal and the wedding. This would include the seating of the family and guests and coordination of the processional. The wedding coordinator will assist the pastor understanding that the pastor is fully responsible for the wedding service. The wedding coordinator shall meet with the pastor to discuss and review wedding policies of the church and the plans of the wedding party.
- P-3.02.04** **Chancel.** The church is aware of the limited space in the Chancel and the necessity at times to rearrange the chancel furniture. Ordinarily the communion table, if moved, must remain displayed in its prominence and centrality.
- P-3.02.05** **Moving of Furniture.** Any and all moving of church furniture and equipment, including electrical equipment must be carried out under the supervision of the sexton or the moderator of the Property and Equipment Committee. The wedding party must replace all furniture and equipment in original locations before leaving the premises.
- P-3.02.06** **Carpet.** The carpet and other fixtures must be protected from candle drippings. Flower girls are not allowed to drop floral petals on the carpet.
- P-3.02.07** **Decorations.** The use of decorations shall be limited to the extent that the facility continues to look like a sanctuary of the Church.
- P-3.02.08** **Photography.** No flash pictures may be taken during the wedding service. A stationary video camera, without special lights, may be used.
- P-3.02.09** **Alcoholic Beverages.** With the exception of communion wine, no alcoholic beverages may be consumed at the church for any functions related to the wedding, including rehearsal dinners, receptions, and the wedding itself.
- P-3.03.00** **The Minister**
- P-3.03.01** **Officiating.** The minister of this church is completely in charge of the wedding and the rehearsal, and shall be the officiate. At the request of those being married, the minister may invite other ordained ministers to participate in the service. If there is no resident pastor, the Moderator of Session shall fulfill these responsibilities.

P-3.03.02 **Premarital Counseling.** The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church requires that the minister must be convinced that Christian commitment and responsibility are present in those who desire to be married, and that this marriage is one which offers promise of being blessed by God. To help the minister determine this, pre-marital counseling shall be required of all those weddings that are performed in the Church.

P-3.04.00 **Music**

P-3.04.01 **Organist.** Ordinarily, the Church organist, or one approved by the Worship Committee with input from the church's organist, is to play the organ. If the church organist is unavailable, a qualified organist approved by the worship committee shall play the organ.

P-3.04.02 **Music Approval.** The music is to direct attention to God and is to be suitable, reverent and consistent with the Church's understanding of worship and marriage. The Church will provide families with a list of suitable music which is approved by the minister or the Moderator of the Session.