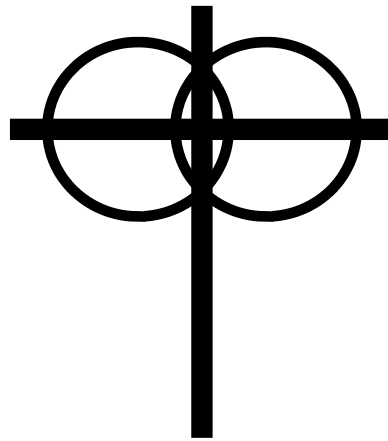


Planning Your Wedding



**University Lutheran
Church & Student Center**

**914 Elm Avenue
Norman, OK 73072**

**(405)321-1584
www.ulcsc.org**

Revised: February 2006

Planning The Wedding Service

When planning your wedding service, the most important thing for you to remember is that it 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 your lives and to ask God to bless your 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 your lives as you begin your marriage.

As we plan your Wedding Service, there will be plenty of options and opportunities for you to make the service “your own.” Each wedding should uniquely reflect the couple being married, their relationship with one another and with God.

The Church, Pastor Mike, and the Congregation Council have adopted the following policies so that the integrity of the wedding service as Christian worship and the purposes of Christian marriage might be maintained.

University Lutheran Church & Student Center Facility

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

The congregation believes in extending hospitality to the wider community. Because of that, 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, florists, etc. will obtain approval before proceeding with any arrangements regarding the use of the facilities.

The worship area comfortably seats 180 guests. Only members may hold receptions in the church. The fellowship hall will hold approximately 90 people. Members must have a team for set up and clean up.

Pastor

The Pastor of University Lutheran is in charge of the wedding ceremony and all events connected with it which occur on church property. If the ceremony is held elsewhere, the pastor will preside over the marriage service and all other related religious expressions. ULCSC’s pastor will officiate at all weddings held at ULCSC unless he 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 this booklet. Other readings may be used, but they must be appropriate to a Christian service of worship. The pastor has final say over which non-biblical readings may be used.

Vows

The couple is free to use the standard vows in the wedding service, select alternative vows from the list provided or write their own vows in consultation with the pastor. In keeping with the Lutheran understanding that marriage is a partnership of equals, both the bride and groom must speak identical vows to one another. Vows must reflect the love, compassion and mutual support of Christian marriage. 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. Certainly, there is good, meaningful secular wedding music. However, it finds its appropriate place 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 get the congregation involved in the worship. A list of suggested songs and hymns is included in this booklet. The pastor will have final say over what music can and cannot be used in the service.

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. There is provision for parents to 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. These are just a few suggestions!

Holy Communion

It is appropriate to celebrate Holy Communion as part of the marriage service. The Sacrament reminds the couple of the sacrificial love of Christ which 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 Clerk of the Courty, Cleveland County, Oklahoma. The pastor is responsible for seeing that the license is properly witnessed and returned to the Clerk of the Court. 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

A minimum of five, ninety minute pre-marriage counseling sessions is required for all couples. Each couple will work through the appropriate Life Innovations inventory and meet with the pastor for feedback and discussion. Computer scoring for the Life Innovations inventory is \$35 and must be paid on the day the inventory is administered.

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. No rearrangement of the furnishings of the church is permitted. Cut flower arrangements can be placed in the altar area, but cannot be placed directly on the altar.

The church will supply 2 candles on the altar (oil burning). There are ten aisle candelabra available for an extra fee (see fee schedule). Candles for the candelabra must be provided by the florist or couple. 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

Flash photography detracts from the worshipful nature of the wedding service. Therefore, 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 unobtrusive and as invisible as possible.

Weddings in Other Locations

Occasionally, the pastor is asked to officiate at weddings outside the ULCSC facility. There may be an additional fee for the pastor (see fee schedule). It is not necessary to use the church organist. If you do, the fee should be negotiated. All research on the individual requirements of the church/facility/location where the service is to be held should be done by the couple and passed on to the pastor. If the service is held outside Cleveland County, Oklahoma, all research and necessary forms must be gathered from the county by the couple and passed on to the pastor. Procedures for the service itself remain the same as if it were held in our building.

Miscellaneous

There shall 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 church grounds. Helium filled, latex or Mylar balloons should not be released from church property.

Flower girls may only drop silk petals in the aisle of the church.

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

For more information contact:

Pastor:	Rev. Michael K. Girlinghouse	Office: (405)321-1584 Cell: (405)313-7268 Email: pastormike@ulcsc.org
Secretary:	Marti Hunnicutt	(405)321-1584
Organist:	Cindy Pullin	(405)329-2889

Scripture Readings

The following is a list of suggested scripture readings for weddings. However, these are just suggestions! Any passage from the Old or New Testament can be selected. Two or three texts are usually read at a wedding. It is traditional for three texts to be read in the context of worship: one Old Testament lesson, one from the letters and writings of the New Testament and one from the Gospels. For a wedding, any combination of texts is permissible.

Old Testament Lessons

Genesis 1:26-31
Genesis 2:18-24
Ruth 1:15-18
Ecclesiastes 4:9-11

Song of Solomon 2:10-13
Song of Solomon 8:7
Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalms

33
100
117
127

128
136
150

New Testament Lessons

Romans 12:1-2
Romans 15:5-6
1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13
Galatians 3:26-29
Ephesians 3:14-21

Ephesians 5:21-33
Colossians 3:12-17
1 John 4:7-12
1 John 4:12-13

Gospel Lessons

Matthew 7:24-27
Matthew 19:4-6

John 2:1-10
John 15:9-17

Vows

These are some suggested vows. You can select your vows from one of the following, mix and match parts you find meaningful or use them as a model to write your own vows.

Standard Vows (Lutheran Book of Worship)

I take you, N
To be my *wife/husband* from this day forward,
To join with you and share all that is to come,
And I promise to be faithful to you
Until death parts us.

Alternative Vows

1. I N, take you, N,
To be my *wife/husband* from this day forward,
To join with you and share all that is to come,
And, with the help of God,
I promise to be faithful to you as God gives us life together.
2. I N, take you, N, to be my *wife/husband* and these things I promise you:
I will be faithful to you and honest with you;
I will respect you as God's precious gift to me;
I will trust you in all circumstances of our life together;
I will help you and care for your physical and spiritual needs;
I promise to forgive you and strengthen you
and share with you in all that is to come,
So that together we may serve God and others as long as we both shall live.
3. I take you, N, to be my *wife/husband* and these things I promise you:
I will be faithful to you and honest with you;
I will respect, trust, help, and care for you;
I will share my life with you;
I will forgive you as we have been forgiven;
And I will try with you to better understand ourselves the world and God;
Through the best and the worst of what is to come as long as we live.

4. I take you, N, to be my *wife/husband* and these things I promise you:
I will be faithful to you and honest with you;
I will respect, trust, help, and encourage you;
I will share my life with you;
I will forgive you as we have been forgiven in Christ;
And I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

5. I, N, take you, N to be my wedded *wife/husband*;
I promise to be your loving and faithful *husband/wife*
In prosperity and in need,
In joy and in sorrow,
In sickness and in health,
And to respect your privileges as an individual as long as we both shall live.

6. I, N, accept you, N. as my wedded *wife/husband*
To share in the fullness of Christian living as long as we both shall live.

7. I, N. accept you, N. as my *wife/husband*
I commit my life to you in the full realization of all the joys and triumphs, perils
and sorrows that will come to us as we live together as husband and wife from this
time forward.

8. I, N, take you, N, to be my *wife/husband*.
I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health.
I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

9. I, N, take thee, N, to be my wedded *wife/husband*,
To have and to hold from this day forward,
For better, for worse, for richer, for poorer,
In sickness and in health,
To love and to cherish, till death do us part,
According to God's command.

10. N, I take you to be my *wife/husband*, from this time onward
To join with you and to share all that is to come,
To give and to receive,
To speak and to listen,
To inspire and to respond,
And in all circumstances of our life together
To be loyal to you with my whole life and with all my being.

11. I take you, N, to be my *wife/husband*.
I promise before God and these witnesses to be your faithful *husband/wife*.
To share with you in plenty and want,
In joy and in sorrow,
In sickness and in health,
To forgive and strengthen you
And to join with you so that together we may serve God and others as long as we
both shall live.

12. I N, take you, N, to be my *wife/husband*.
I promise before God and these friends
to be your loving and faithful *husband/wife*,
To share with you in wealth and in poverty,
In joy and in sorrow,
In sickness and in health,
As long as we both shall live. God help me.

13. I, N, take thee, N, to be my wedded *wife/husband*, to have and to hold from this
day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and
thereto I promise thee my faithfulness.

14. N, I take you to be my *wife/husband*
And I promise before God and these friends
To give and to receive,
To speak and to listen,
To forgive and to be forgiven,
To respect, trust, help and care for you
And to try with you to better understand ourselves, the world and God.
As long as we both shall live.

15. N, I take you to be my *wife/husband*
And I promise before God and these friends
To love you with patience and kindness,
To cherish you with joy and gratitude,
To care for you in sickness and in health,
And to work with you to build our lives together
In the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ
Until death parts us.

Wedding Music

This is a list of music and hymns that have been used at weddings. The list is not exhaustive. Please make sure to check other selections with the pastor and musicians before deciding on the music you will use.

Organ Music

<i>Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring</i>	Bach
<i>Be Thou Near</i>	Bach
<i>Air Suite in D</i>	Bach
<i>Prelude, on Brother James Air</i>	Searle Wright
<i>Rhosymedre (Lovely)</i>	Vaugh Williams
<i>Arisoso in A</i>	Handel-Fischer
<i>Dearest Jesus We Are Here</i>	Purvis
<i>Vision</i>	Rheinberger
<i>Choral and Prayer Suite Gothique</i>	Boellmaun
<i>The Lord's My Shepherd (Tune Crimond)</i>	Mueller
<i>Adagio</i>	Bach
<i>Water Music Suite</i>	Handel

Processionals and Recessionals

<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	Karg-Elert
<i>Psalm 19</i>	Marcello
<i>Trumpet Tunes</i>	Purcell
<i>Rigandon</i>	Campra-Ferrari
<i>Processional on St. Theodulph</i>	Jan Bender
<i>Praise My Soul The King of Heaven</i>	Lindeman
<i>Trumpet Tunes (E Major & D Major)</i>	David Johnson
<i>Canon in D</i>	Pachelbel

Vocal Solos

<i>Entreat Me Not To Leave Thee</i>	Gounod
<i>Settings of the 23rd Psalm</i>	Malotte and others
<i>God My Shepherd Walks Beside Me</i>	Back-Dickinson
<i>The God of Love My Shepherd Is</i>	Thiman
<i>O Perfect Love</i>	Barnby-Willan-Burleigh
<i>Wedding Prayer</i>	Brahms
<i>The Lord's Prayer</i>	Malotte
<i>O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts</i>	Brahms
<i>Love Divine, All Love Excelling</i>	C. Wesley-Pritchard
<i>Whither Thou Go-est (Wedding Song)</i>	Flor Peeters
<i>Nuptial Blessing</i>	
<i>Wedding Song</i>	
<i>When Love is Found</i>	Jennings-Wren

Hymns

<i>O Perfect Love</i>	LBW #287
<i>Hear Us Now, Our God and Father</i>	LBW #288
<i>Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer</i>	LBW #289
<i>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</i>	LBW #315
<i>Eternal God, Before Your Throne</i>	LBW #354
<i>Blest Be the Tie that Binds</i>	LBW #370
<i>Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us</i>	LBW #481
<i>Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus</i>	LBW #487
<i>Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower</i>	LBW #502
<i>Oh, Blest is the House</i>	LBW #512 or #513
<i>Beautiful Savior</i>	LBW #518
<i>Now Thank We All Our God</i>	LBW #533 or #534
<i>Praise to the Lord, The Almighty</i>	LBW #543
<i>Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee</i>	LBW #551
<i>In Thee Is Gladness</i>	LBW #552
<i>As Man and Woman We Were Made</i>	WOV #751
<i>Bind Us Together</i>	WOV #748
<i>Jesus, Come! For We Invite You</i>	WOV #648
<i>When Love is Found</i>	WOV #749

Fees and Other Considerations (As of March 1, 2006)

ITEM	MEMBERS (& immediate family)	NON-MEMBERS
<u>Use of Facilities:</u>		
Worship Area	NA	\$350.00
Cleaning/Open/Close	\$50.00	Included
Reception Janitorial	\$25.00	
Aisle Candelabra	\$25.00	\$25.00
<u>Other Services:</u>		
Pastor		
On site	NA	\$150.00
Off site	NA	\$250.00
Organist		
Rehearsal	\$50.00	\$75.00
Wedding	\$100.00	\$125.00
Soloist Rehearsal	Negotiated	Negotiated
Harpicord	Negotiated	\$75.00
Off site	Negotiated	Negotiated
<u>Premarital Counseling:</u>		
Counseling (5 Sessions)	NA	\$120.00
Prepare Inventory	\$35.00	\$35.00

Additional Information:

Members are those officially received into church membership and who have regularly attended services for at least three months.

University Lutheran's church organist has the right of first refusal for all weddings at ULCSC.

A 50% deposit of the facility fee is required to hold the date of the wedding past three weeks from first notification. 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.

No damage deposit is required. However, the couple will be billed for any damages noted.