

TO THE COUPLE

The wedding ministry at First Community United Methodist Church is designed to enable couples being married to have a sacred experience of union in worshipful surroundings and atmosphere.

Our services are designed to help families and others in the wedding party, as well as those who share as observer participants, experience the mystery of marital union and sacredness of life. It is our prayer that participants and the gathered community will sense the spiritual bond that unites all.

To help your planning, we have prepared this brochure. The pastor and the wedding hostess will be available if you have any questions.

WEDDING AND REHEARSAL DATES

Both dates must be made by contacting the church and confirming with a \$150.00, non-refundable deposit, in order to proceed with your planning.

MEETINGS WITH THE COUPLE - PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

The pastor will meet with both of you three times. Pre-marital counseling is required by the United Methodist Church. You will need to schedule three sessions with the pastor. At the second session, you will be given a packet of wedding ceremonies (including the basic ceremony) to choose from, or write your own.

The wedding hostess will contact you and meet with you once, and more if necessary. She will discuss the building use, procedures, reception details, custodian, music, etc. In addition, she will make arrangements for the organist to play and the custodian to clean. Contact her soon.

The wedding hostess will also coordinate the preparations on the day of your wedding. She is available to receive flowers; to be present during the time of dressing and picture taking; to assist with getting portions of the wedding started on time and in proper order.

If you expect more than 50 guests or plan a reception, a reception hostess is also required. She will coordinate with the wedding hostess.

THE WEDDING LICENSE

Wedding licenses are valid for sixty days. Apply for your license at the King County Administration Building at Fifth and James in Seattle. **Take cash; they do not take checks.**

Our minister is required by law to complete the wedding license. He will get the necessary information from you. The license may be signed either before or after the ceremony. Most often, it is signed thirty minutes before the service by the two of you, your two witness, and the minister.

GUEST PASTOR

If you desire for clergy from other churches to conduct or assist in the ceremony, they must be invited by our pastor.

ORGANIST

The church organist will play for your wedding unless there is an unusual situation. Music is traditional unless you have a special request. Discuss your requests with the organist. The organist needs a copy of any special music one month in advance of your wedding date.

SOLOISTS OR INSTRUMENTALISTS

You may want to have someone sing or an instrumentalist perform, and the church has referral information for you. A couple from the church are available to assist you with special music (solos/duets, pianist, guitarist). Again, speak with the wedding hostess about placement within the service. You will be expected to furnish copies of the music.

FLOWERS AND CANDLES

Flowers add beauty to your wedding, symbolizing new life. Please use **living** flowers or plants, especially on the altar. Silks are also acceptable.

Candles are always appropriate. You may rent candelabras from the florist of your choice. A wedding candle, or unity candle, is sometimes used.

TAKING PICTURES

Pictures of your wedding party may be taken either before or after the service. Most photographers prefer to take pictures before the service. We recommend one to one and a half hours for posed pictures. The photographer needs to be finished thirty minutes before the wedding is scheduled to begin.

Time exposures from the narthex may be taken, but please talk with your wedding hostess beforehand. Videotaping a wedding is often done from the rear of the sanctuary. Please make arrangements with the coordinator.

GUEST BOOK AND GIFT TABLES

The wedding hostess will provide a guest book stand and gift table. You will need to furnish the guest book and pen.

WHEN TO ARRIVE AT THE CHURCH

We will start your rehearsal on time. The pastor, wedding hostess, and organist will be here at the appointed hour. Allow sixty to ninety minutes for the rehearsal. Your wedding day will be a joy if you allow enough time. Here are some guidelines, dependent on your individual service and the number of people involved:

- ♥ Arrive 2 to 2.5 hours before the service
- ♥ Allow at least 30 minutes to dress
- ♥ 1 to 2.5 hours for photographs
- ♥ 30 minutes before to sign your license and practice your vows or relax
- ♥ 20 to 30 minutes for the service
- ♥ At least 1 hour for your receiving line

RECEPTIONS

Our reception facilities hold no more than 250 persons. A reception must be set up and coordinated through the reception hostess, whose number is on the front of the brochure.

You will be expected to furnish the following:

Centerpiece for table(s)	Bow for the cake server	Napkins	Nuts and mints
Wedding cake	Coffee, tea, sugar, cream, punch	Other food items if used	

Please do not use dark-colored punch, especially avoiding red.

You will need to ask someone to:

- Pour coffee and tea
- Serve punch
- Receive gifts
- Cut and serve your cake
- Oversee the signing of your guest book

SOME NO-NOS

Alcohol is not allowed on the church property. This includes champagne. Smoking must be done outside; each room has an exit. For environmental safety only bird seed may be thrown outside. No rice or other substances, please.

COSTS OF YOUR WEDDING

The Wedding and Reception hostesses will inform you of the costs for musicians, custodial service, hostess services, and building use.

Pastor's Honorarium	\$300	(off-site is \$500)
---------------------	-------	---------------------

Your Wedding



Pastor Joyce O'Connor-Magee	425-228-4577
Wedding Hostess Tanya Pokswinski	425-235-5567
Reception Hostess Amy Melvin	425-793-5922
Organist Matt Johnston	425-444-4646
Soloists/ Bill and Lori McEwen	425-255-4527
Instrumentalists	

FAIRWOOD COMMUNITY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
15255 SE Fairwood Blvd., Renton WA 98058
425-228-4577