

Wedding Policy (Revised 7-2007)

The marriage ceremony in the Christian Church is a worship service. As stated in the United Methodist Book of Worship, the service of Christian marriage "*is provided for couples that wish to solemnize their marriage in a service of Christian worship, parallel in its structure to the Sunday service, which includes the proclamation of the Word with prayer and praise. Christian marriage is proclaimed as a sacred covenant reflecting the Baptismal Covenant. Everything about the service is designed to witness that this is a Christian marriage.*"

I. General Information

Contact shall be made with the pastor (*at the earliest date possible*) by the couple wishing to be united in marriage. It is required that the minister of Mt Mitchell United Methodist Church be a part of the ceremony. If another minister is to be invited to perform the wedding, the minister of Mt Mitchell United Methodist Church must invite that minister.

II. Fees

Use of Sanctuary		
	Member	No Charge
	Sexton	\$100.00
	Non-Member	\$400.00
	Sexton	<u>\$100.00</u>
Section 1.01	Total Fee	\$500.00

Use of Fellowship Building

Member	\$ 35.00
Non-Member	\$200.00

Use of Church Parlor or Chapel

Member	No Charge
Non-Member	\$ 75.00

III. Music

The wedding is a sacred service of worship in which we celebrate the holy marital covenant of our Christian tradition. Therefore, all music shall be sacred and in keeping with the occasion. All musical selections shall be made by the couple in consultation with the church organist. Any musicians other than the Mt Mitchell United Methodist Church organist such as vocal soloist, violinist, cellist, trumpeter, guitarist, etc., and the music they perform must be approved by the Mt Mitchell United Methodist Church organist and the minister.

IV. Flowers and Decorations

The pulpit and altar table shall not be moved. Candelabra and floral stands may be used inside the altar rail. On the altar table, if a floral arrangement is used, the floral arrangement cannot hide the cross.

The furniture, floor and carpets must be fully protected against moisture and candle wax.

Altar Paraments should be white or the color of the season.

Hurricane globes and candles are available for use in the windows. The cost of candles is \$50.00. The hurricane globes and candles should be removed from the windows immediately after the wedding.

Only masking tape can be used on the end of the pews to attach bows, flowers, etc..

Candelabra, floral stands, etc. are to be removed from the church immediately after the wedding. If the wedding party chooses to leave the flowers in the sanctuary for the Sunday morning worship service, the church office should be notified.

V. Photographs

Flash photographs will not be allowed during the service of worship, however, available lighting photos from the back of the Sanctuary are permitted. The wedding party may return to the altar after the service for photographs. Videotape cameras shall remain stationary.

VI. Wedding Party

Members of the wedding party are to be informed that under **no circumstances** should any of them come to the rehearsal or wedding under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The parlor can be used by the bride and her attendants for dressing. A classroom can be used by the groom and his groomsmen for dressing.

VII. Miscellaneous

Birdseed or flower petals may be thrown outside the church. (***No rice, please!***) No smoking or profanity is permitted in any part of the church facilities.

Honorariums paid to the Pastor, Organist and Sound Board Operator are at the discretion of the bride and groom. Please consult with your Wedding Planner as to what amount is customary.

The Worship Committee Chairperson will assist with questions or concerns the bride and groom may have.