

**WEDDING POLICY OF COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Mountainside, NJ**

A **WEDDING** is one of the most important events in a person's life! Because of its religious nature, a wedding in the church should be carefully planned and a spirit of reverence should mark the entire service.

**APPROVAL** of the Minister is required before a wedding may be held in the Church, and arrangements should be made with the Administrative Assistant in Church Office. The couple is expected to meet with the pastor for premarital counseling.

**LICENSE.** Application should be made for a license at least two weeks before the desired wedding date. The license should be presented to the minister at the rehearsal, the time of which should be arranged with the minister.

**DECORATIONS** are planned by the bride's family and should be fully discussed with the florist and the minister. All receptacles, hangers and fasteners for floral arrangements must be non-marring. Decorations should not obscure the table and cross and should be so placed as to insure the safety of those who attend the service.

**PHOTOGRAPHS** may not be taken during the service. They may be taken in the narthex as the bridal party enters, or following the service as the bridal party leaves the church. The bridal party may pose in the chancel for pictures following the service. A stationary video camera that does not require special lighting may be used during the service. The placement of the camera must be approved by the minister.

**USHERS** should be at the church at least thirty minutes before the service. They customarily lay the runner, if one is used, and fasten the ribbons to reserved pews.

**RECORDS.** The Church keeps a record of all weddings performed within the building under its jurisdiction and the minister will furnish a wedding certificate following the wedding. Usually the best man and maid of honor or matron of honor sign this document as witnesses. The minister of the church is expected to officiate at all ceremonies, unless other arrangements are made with his permission. He should extend the invitation to the other minister to assist in the ceremony.

**USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES.** The church makes no charge for the use of the sanctuary if either of the contracting parties or a parent is a communicant member of the church. The following sums represent the appropriate minimum contribution to cover the expense of the church facilities for weddings:

A. SANCTUARY	
Church Member (as defined above)	-0-
Non-Church Member	\$300.
B. ASSEMBLY ROOM with use of the kitchen	
	\$300.

**MINISTER.** The minimum fee for the minister is \$400.

**MUSIC.** The church organist is expected to play at all weddings in the church and should be consulted as to musical selections. Usually there is a twenty-minute program of organ music before the wedding ceremony takes place. Any exception must be approved by the church organist. The couple is required to schedule an appointment with the organist to discuss musical selections. The organist's minimum fee is \$300. Please add an additional \$50 for each soloist.

Please advise your party that because of environmental concerns, rice throwing is not permitted. Bird seed may be substituted on the portico—not in the narthex.