

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH IN STOW

Wedding Policies

SETTING THE DATE: Set the date for your wedding as soon as possible in consultation with the pastor. One month lead-time is the absolute minimum but several months lead-time is preferred. All wedding dates are on a first-come basis. Only one wedding is held on any date. No exceptions.

PRE-MARRIAGE COUNSELING: “All couples to be married at The United Methodist Church in Stow will participate in an approved course of pre-marriage counseling prior to the wedding.” (Adopted by the Administrative Board January 10, 1995)

Your engagement period is an opportunity for your relationship to deepen and grow. Pre-marriage counseling seeks to aid you in that growth, and to deepen your appreciation of each other and your relationship.

You need to you to make sure that you schedule 2-3 counseling sessions with Rev. Karen Drotar by calling the church office: 330-673-7752.

THE MINISTER: The pastor of The United Methodist Church in Stow will be responsible for all weddings taking place in this church. Any and all arrangements and procedures will be made in consultation with the pastor and our Wedding Coordinator.

If you would like another pastor to assist with the wedding (i.e., Fiancée’s pastor, close friend, relative, etc.), our pastor must be involved in the wedding and be paid. Your minister must have valid ministerial credentials and be approved by our pastor.

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS: Floral arrangements should be kept simple. Should you desire to leave your flowers for the following day’s worship service, they will be placed in the narthex and acknowledged by the Sunday liturgist.

Aisle runners are discouraged for safety reasons. No nails or scotch tape should be used on the pews to affix decorations.

SERVICE BULLETINS: Worship Bulletins for the Wedding may be used. We do not type or them here.

REHEARSAL: All persons participating in the wedding service should be present at the rehearsal. The purpose of the rehearsal is to assure that the wedding will move smoothly, with dignity, and in a spirit of worship. Please

bring any unity symbols with you to the rehearsal. If you are using the candelabras, you will need to bring 14 dripless taper candles.

MUSIC: An approved Wedding Organist of The United Methodist Church in Stow is expected to be the organist at all weddings. A guest organist may be used, but only through consultation with the pastor.

The couple is responsible to contact and secure the organist.

Approved Organists/Pianists

Kim Gallagher	330-677-4441
Chelsea Selvaggio	216-287-8410

Soloists and/or instrumental music are permitted. Recorded music must be approved by the pastor. All music must be suitable for Christian Worship.

PHOTOGRAPHS & RECORDING: No flash photography is permitted after the bride has reached the chancel or during the ceremony. Any portion of the service may be reposed following the conclusion of the service. Upon the recessional, flash photography may resume.

Visual recording of the service is permitted using existing light. This camera and person shall remain stationary throughout the service from a location arranged by the pastor. **The photographer must speak with the pastor before the wedding to clear guidelines.**

RECEPTIONS: Receptions may be held in the Fellowship Hall if scheduled in advance and cleared through the Church Office. There is a charge for non-members for the use of this area (see schedule on the back page).

REGULATIONS:

- No alcoholic beverages or smoking are permitted on the church grounds.
- Flower petals may be used down the aisle.
- Birdseed or flower petals may be used outside the building, if desired. Rice and artificial flowers are not permitted to be thrown.
- Couples shall be responsible to pay for any damages to the facility, furnishings, or equipment incurred during the course of their use of the building.
- Additional custodial fees shall be assessed at \$10.00 per hour for excessive custodial responsibilities for cleaning.
- Marriage license is to be given to the pastor at the wedding rehearsal.
- Activities shall be confined to those rooms agreed upon prior to the wedding.
- **The piano and organ are not to be touched or have anything put on them.**

THE COSTS OF YOUR WEDDING

All couples planning a wedding at our church must give a **\$50 non-refundable deposit** to secure the wedding date they desire. This amount will be applied toward the total use of the sanctuary.

***Required **Required only if used**

DONATIONS FOR FACILITY USE

SANCTUARY (Check made out to *UMC in Stow*)

Church Members	\$ 50.00
*Non-Members	\$175.00

RECEPTIONS in FELLOWSHIP HALL

Church Members	(couple's discretion)
** Non-Members	\$500.00

PERSONNEL

*MINISTER (Separate check made out to *Rev. Karen Drotar*)

Fee \$200.00

If Co-Officiating \$175.00

*WEDDING COORDINATOR \$125.00

(Separate check made out to *Cathy Schindler*)

**ORGANIST/PIANIST~ Wedding and Rehearsal \$130 & up

(Separate check made out to specific organist)

*SOUND PERSON \$30.00

(*Separate check made out TBA*)

TOTAL (without organist or FH) Members: \$405.00

Non-Members: \$530.00

All fees and donations should be given to the Wedding Coordinator at the time of the rehearsal except for the deposit which should be given immediately on setting the date. **Please make sure that checks are individually written to the minister, wedding coordinator, etc.**

Use of the United Methodist Church in Stow facility is limited to the parlor, sanctuary, Room 200, and restrooms. Use of Fellowship Hall is only for receptions that have been scheduled in advance.

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WEDDING POLICY

