



Weddings at First Presbyterian Church

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Creating Your Unique Wedding

Presbyterians understand a wedding service to be, first of all, a service of worship to God. We know that God rejoices in love and for this reason invite all couples to consider a wedding at Anaheim First Presbyterian church. While Presbyterian traditions will guide aspects of the service, we aim to use the time during premarital consultations to learn more about your background and how we can best integrate your tradition, culture and unique personalities into the service. The wedding coordinator is here to take care of all your needs. Please be sure to communicate any needs which you may have!

Who Conducts the Wedding Service?

It is our church's standard policy that a pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Anaheim will conduct wedding services performed in the sanctuary. For special reasons, upon request, the pastor may consider extending an invitation to another clergy to participate in the service or to act in their stead. If another clergy is to conduct the service they must provide the church office with an order for worship for advance approval. The visiting clergy's religious affiliation must be publicly acknowledged.

Pre-Marital Consultations with the Pastor

All weddings conducted by one of the pastors of the church will be preceded by premarital consultation where the service will be discussed and planning begins. Another purpose of this meeting is for the pastor to get to know the couple better and become acquainted with their understanding of marriage.

Wedding Fees

For a sanctuary wedding, the wedding fees cover expenses for the use of the church facilities and the time spent by the pastor, organist, soloist, coordinator, and assistant coordinator, the unity candle, printed Order of Worship, sound technician, rehearsal time, rooms to dress, and all decorations except flowers. The fee is \$2,000. A deposit of \$500 is required to reserve your wedding date. The deposit does not apply to the fee. It may be refunded if there is no damage or overtime charges. The deposit must be paid at the time the Wedding Agreement is submitted. The balance of the wedding fee must be received no later than 30 days prior to the rehearsal date.

Use of Facilities

It is recommended that as much notice be given as possible in securing a reservation and returning the application form. When this is received along with the retainer of the wedding fee, the date and time of the wedding will be entered on the master calendar in the church office. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on our premises, except at receptions. This also includes the cars and limousines. Smoking is not allowed inside any of the buildings.

Dressing Facilities

A dressing room is made available and there is a restroom nearby. It is suggested that makeup and hair are done before arrival.

Photographs, Video and Rice

It is strict policy that confetti, bird seed, or rice not be thrown on the church grounds, public sidewalks, or the church parking lot. There are several places where photography, without flash, may be shot. Your Wedding Coordinator will meet with you several weeks before your wedding when this and any other concerns will be addressed. Video recording is permissible if the operator is located in an area assigned by the Wedding Coordinator, remains at that location, and uses only available lighting.

Wedding Music

The church organist is the organist for all weddings conducted in the sanctuary. In the event that they cannot be present, a substitute will be secured by the organist. All music is to be selected in consultation with the organist. The church will provide a soloist if one is desired, or you may have a soloist from outside the church, in which case, please give the organist's phone number to them so they can arrange rehearsal time together. There is a grand piano in our sanctuary which can be played by guests of your own choosing. All musical selections must be approved by the pastor.

Flowers

The church provides pew candles, ropes and bows, the candles on the communion table, and the unity candle. There are two pillars for floral arrangements which hold standard one-gallon florist pots. Flowers may be delivered to the church two hours prior to the service. If the florist is attaching flowers to the pew candles, please let the Wedding Coordinator know.

People In and Attending Your Wedding

When you meet with the Wedding Coordinator you will discuss seating arrangements you refer for parents, grandparents, or other close family members who will be escorted down the center aisle. Some couples choose other friends or relatives who are not in the wedding party to be:

Readers - A reader participates in the actual service by reading some of the scripture lessons or an appropriate tribute to the occasion.

Acolytes - The acolytes light the pew candles and the couple candles on the communion table. Sometimes parents light these candles.

Ushers - An usher welcomes the arriving guests and assists them to their seats.

Guest Book Attendant - Encourages all guests to sign the Guest Book.

Receptions

It is possible for the couple to have a wedding reception in the church's fellowship hall which will be a separate fee. The fee starts at \$1200.00 for hall only. The hall can hold 280 for a dinner. A reservation for such use should be made through the Church Administrator at the time the wedding is scheduled. The rental fee is for six hours, (two hours set-up, 3 hours party, one hour clean-up) of use of the hall. The Session does allow the use of a champagne or wine toast, if served by approved licensed caterer. An additional fee will apply.

On Your Wedding Day

Your Wedding Coordinator will arrive at the church two hours prior to the time of the service. The fee you have paid reserves the sanctuary and dressing rooms for three hours which begin when the Coordinator arrives. Your photographer will let you know how much time he/she needs for pictures to be taken before the service; however, if you will not be taking any pictures prior to the service you need not arrive more than one hour in advance. If you are taking all of your pictures prior to the service, special arrangements will need to be made with the Wedding Coordinator.

Bring along some crackers to help ward off "butterflies" in your stomach.