

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke & St. Paul

Wedding Policy

Congratulations on your engagement to be married! To be united as husband and wife in heart, body, and mind in Holy Matrimony is a joyful and mysterious calling. As our Book of Common Prayer states it, “Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.” As you continue your journey of discernment and preparation for your marriage, it is our honor to walk alongside you in this exciting time in your lives and to help you plan a sacred and beautiful Christ-centered wedding service.

What we believe about marriage:

In the Church, we believe marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in Holy Matrimony, a single, exclusive, lifelong union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25; Mark 10:1-9). This signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, reconciling and re-uniting two complements. God’s good intention for us is that sexual intimacy is to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4.) For the blessing and protection of the bond of marriage, our families, and particularly our children, God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as His covenant relationship between a man and a woman, The Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul will only recognize and solemnize a marriage that is between a man and a woman. Further, the clergy and staff of the Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul shall only serve in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. The facilities and property of The Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the Cathedral Church of St. Luke and St. Paul.

So, what is required of me?

After reading our wedding policy in full, your next step toward a Cathedral wedding is for both the bride and groom to make an appointment with the Rector or a member of our clergy, where we will discuss the premarital ministry. To do that, simply call the church office at (843) 722-7345. Planning a wedding is a complex process. For this reason, the church will only discuss and take direction for wedding plans from the bride or groom. Before meeting with the Rector, it is helpful to complete the wedding form, "Wedding Request Form", located on our website, yourcathedral.org. Following approval by the Rector, premarital counseling can begin. In some cases, after initial consultation with Cathedral clergy, arrangements may be made for a couple residing out of state to receive counseling from clergy in the community where they live. Before the counseling begins and once it is completed, the counselor should contact the officiating member of the Cathedral clergy.

When can I set the date?

The couple is expected to contact the office at least six months prior to their desired wedding day, before any other steps are finalized. If you have a date in mind, you can learn if your date is available; however, it will not be booked until after the meeting with the Rector or other member of clergy.

For weddings that are scheduled on Sundays, or four days either side of the Holidays of New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday, Presidents' Day, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day, the usual fees are doubled. (See Fee Schedule at end of this document.) Friday weddings must be cleared with the officiating priest. Weddings are planned to start no later than 7:00 pm. The ceremony is approximately 45 mins in length without communion and about 90 mins with communion depending on the number of guests who receive communion. The buildings are only available two hours prior to the start of the wedding. This can be negotiated in cases when the reception is held in the Cathedral parish hall. A member of our property staff will be in the buildings during this time for your assistance.

Can I write my own vows?

The marriage rite of Holy Matrimony is not only a witness to a covenant of life-long union of fidelity and love, but also God's benediction upon that covenant; therefore, the rite should be conducted in the church.

Neither the priest nor the couple is free to alter the service beyond the permissible options as found within the Book of Common Prayer, which do not allow for writing one's own vows.

What about music?

Once pre-marital instruction has begun and a date set, contact Paul Thomas, the Cathedral Organist & Choral Ministry Director 843-722-7345 ext. 105, paul@your-cathedral.org, three-four months prior to your wedding date to plan music for the service. Since the wedding is a worship service, only Christ-centered music is to be used. The clergy have the final say on all music sung or played.

The Organist & Choral Ministry Director can answer most of your questions when you have your initial meeting. The Organist & Choral Ministry Director can provide links to music samples to help you with choosing the music for your wedding. It is entirely the Organist & Choral Ministry Director's prerogative to play for all weddings at the Cathedral. If the couple wishes to use another organist instead, he or she must be approved by the Cathedral Organist & Choral Ministry Director, and the Cathedral Organist & Choral Ministry Director must still be paid his fee.

The Organist & Choral Ministry Director should be consulted prior to any contact involving soloists or musicians who might be asked to participate. The Organist & Choral Ministry Director must approve any instrumentalists and/or soloists prior to confirming the date of performance. Vocal soloists and other musicians may participate under the direction of the Cathedral's Organist & Choral Ministry Director, who will provide appropriate organ and congregational music and will advise the Rector or one of the clergy team as to the suitability of music suggested by the couple. For an additional fee, detailed below, the Cathedral Organist & Choral Ministry Director may assist in contracting vocalists and instrumentalists at the request of the couple. These musicians set their own fees separately from the Cathedral. The use of recorded music is not allowed.

For contemporary music and musicians, please contact the church office to be put in touch with the appropriate member of the Cathedral staff.

Can we have the Tower Bells ring?

Yes. If you desire ringing, please call the church office to coordinate with the Tower Captain.

Do you have any assistance on the day of the wedding?

The Sexton, a Cathedral staff member, is assigned to your wedding and knows the Cathedral's facilities, where to find things, where the men and women can dress, what to do in an emergency, and the policies which the church has asked him to enforce. It is his job to explain and execute church wedding policies to the couple. He is experienced in handling many weddings and is a valuable resource in regard to policies and traditional procedures. He will help your wedding run smoothly and worry-free.

Do you have a Wedding Consultant?

No, the Cathedral does not provide a wedding consultant. A wedding consultant is a trained professional hired by the couple to assist in making plans. Wedding consultants need to be aware of all policies of the Cathedral Church.

What are the Marriage License requirements in South Carolina?

For marriage license requirements in the State of South Carolina, go to www.sciway.net/facts/marriagelicense.html. The South Carolina marriage license should be obtained from any state marriage license office well in advance of the proposed wedding. Couples must apply together. There is a 24-hour waiting period before the license may be picked up. Licenses must be obtained with adequate time for it to be brought to the wedding rehearsal. All three copies must be brought to the rehearsal.

Flowers & Decorations

Hangings

The church provides white silk damask hangings for the lectern and pulpit for weddings. No other hangings may be used.

Flowers and Decorations

Floral arrangements add beauty and a festive atmosphere for this special day. Flowers may be provided by the Bride's family or by a florist. The brass vases belonging to the Cathedral are available. Arrangements will need to be in liners which will fit into the vases. Alternatively, a florist may use metal containers. Plastic containers are not permitted. The flowers will be placed on the two pedestals flanking the High Altar. Smaller arrangements may be placed on pews to mark family seating areas. These bouquets will be tied on the pews with no external material used to hold them in place. Nails,

tape, or any damaging adhesives are prohibited. If additional floral arrangements are proposed, approval must be obtained from the clergy or the Altar Guild chair.

Flowers used on the pedestals for weddings will be left in the church for the regular Sunday services. Proper recognition will be given in the Sunday service bulletins if requested. The clergy and Altar Guild chair have final authority on all decorations.

Candles

The two regular branched candelabra used behind the altar in the two side windows are the only ones used for weddings, unless there is to be a celebration of Holy Communion at the wedding. In the instance of Holy Communion, the Eucharistic altar candles will be used. No other candles, mechanical or flame, may be used anywhere in the church.

What's required to prepare for the actual service?

The officiating Priest, Organist & Choral Ministry Director, and a member of Cathedral staff meet with the bride and groom and members of the wedding party for a rehearsal the evening prior to the wedding. Rehearsals are scheduled for 5:00 pm. It will take approximately one hour. The rehearsal is an important part of preparation for your wedding. It helps participants better understand the events to take place during their wedding and also remove some of the nervousness of the day so you can enjoy your wedding. Please be prompt. The officiating priest will conduct the rehearsal and arrange placement of all participants. Please bring the Marriage License, Clergy Honorarium and Bulletins (if printed outside the Cathedral) to the rehearsal.

Before the rehearsal, determine where you would like family members and close friends to be seated. In addition, decide which family members (traditionally, mothers and grandmothers) will be escorted to their pews after the general seating ends and just before the procession begins. Assign a groomsman to escort each of the mothers and grandmothers in before the wedding and out at the conclusion of the service.

The use of very young children as flower girls or ring bearers often seems like a good idea, but frequently proves to be challenging, with children refusing to perform as required. Be sure if you invite children to participate that they are able to do their part. Please have them sit with an adult once they have processed.

What about photographs and photographers?

Photos can be taken before the ceremony. Within the church, pre-service photos must be completed 30 minutes before the service is to begin. No still photography (with or without flash) is allowed inside the church once the wedding procession has arrived at the front of the church and the worship service begins. Photographers are not to go up and down the aisle during the Processional or Recessional. A photographer may stand in the vestibule and take pictures of the bride and her escort at the beginning of the service and again at the end of the service as the bride and groom process out of the church. Videotaping from the balcony is permitted, provided the camera operator does not attempt to move about during the service. It is the responsibility of the couple to inform professional photographers of these policies, and advise family members not to take photos during the service. The wedding party may be posed for additional photos in the church after the service.

Miscellaneous

Dressing Room

Normally, members of the wedding party will find it more convenient to dress at home. If desired, different rooms can be provided for the male and female wedding party members in the Parish House. Other rooms are not to be used.

Alcoholic Beverages

Unless the reception is being held in Wellbrock Hall, alcoholic beverages are not allowed on the property. At the reception, beer and wine are allowed (no hard liquor). Appropriate non-alcoholic options must also be provided.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion may be celebrated as part of the wedding service. If Communion is desired, please discuss this with the officiating priest during premarital instruction. When Communion is celebrated, it is open to the whole congregation.

Please Note:

No items are to be thrown or dropped anywhere on the church property. This includes, but is not limited to, rice, birdseed, flower petals (real or artificial), bubbles, confetti, balloons, doves or the like. Sword arches are permitted during the recessional following the wedding. Please alert the staff well in advance if there will be handicap

accessibility required. Pets are not permitted to participate in the wedding ceremony in any fashion.

Such acts of God including but not limited to hurricane, earthquake, fire, tornado, flooding... The Cathedral reserves the right to cancel or re-schedule functions.

What if one of us has been previously married?

The Canons of the Anglican Church make provision for marriage of divorced persons after counseling with the parish clergy and with the written consent of the bishop. In every case, a divorce must have been final for one year prior to application to the bishop. The minimum time required for counseling is six (6) months. The bishop requires 30 days to consider the application. The Bishop will not consider an application for a third marriage involving two prior divorces. Holy Matrimony is understood by the Anglican Church to be a lifelong union of husband and wife. The provision for remarriage after divorce is based on God's promise of grace and forgiveness to those whose sins are confessed and repented.

Can other clergy assist?

If the assistance of a minister other than a member of The Cathedral staff is desired, please inform the officiating priest during premarital instruction. Non-Anglican ministers and Anglican/Episcopal clergy from outside the Diocese of South Carolina must receive approval from our bishop.

Service Bulletin

If you choose to have your service bulletin printed by The Cathedral, you will need to meet with the Cathedral staff to go over the bulletin and decide what information will be included and the production costs involved. If you wish to outsource your bulletin to another printer, we will be happy to e-mail a text file of what needs to be in the bulletin. Either way, the bulletin must be approved by the priest officiating the wedding before going to press.

Should you choose to produce your own bulletin, please make sure the following wording is included, "For the sake of reverence and because this is a worship service, no still photography with or without a flash is permitted."

Fees

Members of the Parish:

Use of the Church \$550

Suggested Honorarium for the Priest \$300*

Altar Guild Fee \$150

Sexton \$300*

Tower Bells \$200

Organist \$250*

Musician Contracting Fee (payable to the Cathedral Organist): \$25 per musician.

Vocal Soloist: \$125 plus contracting fee.

Choir: \$75 per singer plus contracting fee. Choir singers are hired in multiples of four, with four being the minimum.

Other Instrumentalists: Market Rate plus contracting fee.

- Use of Cathedral Piano and/or Organ by a musician outside the Cathedral Music Staff: \$150

(Use is subject to approval by the Organist & Choral Ministry Director. Please see below for information about the instruments and tuning schedule.)

Musical Instruments in the Cathedral:

-Steinway Model B Concert Grand Piano

-Gabriel Kney Tracker Action Pipe Organ (II/36)

Both instruments are tuned on a bi-annual basis (May and November) and maintained at the Cathedral's expense. Additional tunings may be arranged at the expense of the lessee. If you would like to request an additional tuning for your wedding, please make arrangements through the Organist & Choral Ministry Director. The Cathedral's piano technician is John Krucke, and our organ technician is Brian Reed. Work on the Cathedral's instruments by other technicians is not permitted.

Weddings and other events often use microphones, have instruments that need to be amplified, want recordings or need video projection. We will have a trained sound person present for the rehearsal and wedding or event to manage this responsibility. Fee \$150*

Other Facilities:

Use of Welbrock Hall \$100/Hour (Min. 2 hrs.)

Use of Bishop Allison Courtyard \$75/Hour (Min. 2 hrs.)

*This fee doubles for a Sunday and a Holiday or four days either side of the Holiday (New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Junior's Birthday, Presidents' Day, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day)

Non-members of the Parish (With the permission of the Rector):

Use of the Church \$1,500

Suggested Honorarium for the Priest \$500*

Altar Guild Fee \$250

Sexton \$500*

Tower Bells \$250

Organist \$325*

Musician Contracting Fee (payable to the Cathedral Organist): \$25 per musician.

Vocal Soloist: \$125 plus contracting fee.

Choir: \$75 per singer plus contracting fee. Choir singers are hired in multiples of four, with four being the minimum.

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Other Facilities:

Use of Welbrock Hall \$200/Hour (Min. 2 hrs.)

Use of Bishop Allison Courtyard \$150/Hour (Min. 2 hrs.)

*This fee doubles for a Sunday and a Holiday or four days either side of the Holiday (New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Junior's Birthday, Presidents' Day, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day)