



Little Prairie United Methodist Church

“Where Church is Family”

2980 130th St. E.
PO Box 276
Dundas, MN 55019
www.littleprairieumc.org

Wedding Guide 2012

WEDDING INFORMATION

Christian marriage is one of the most significant, God-given privileges attainable. Therefore, your wedding should reflect dignity, joy and reverence in every detail. Your wedding ceremony is not a show to impress friends. It is a testimony before God and those dear to you of your desire to live and grow together in the Lord. This WEDDING GUIDE has been prepared for your assistance in planning your wedding.

I. PREMARITAL COUNSELING

Since it is our purpose to prepare couples for marriage as well as to perform the ceremony which unites them in marriage, the church requires all couples to spend a minimum of four (4) counseling sessions to discuss various aspects of marriage and life together. These sessions will be held with the officiating pastor or with another trained counselor, pending the couple's permission. At least one additional session with the Pastor may be required to plan the ceremony. These sessions are arranged at your convenience when you first contact the pastor and should begin a minimum of three (3) months prior to the wedding date.

A background information form is requested from a couple that asks about each person's faith history. The pastor may choose not officiate at weddings in which one person is a believer and the other person is not. Changes and situations not covered in the above policy must have prior approval from the officiating pastor.

II. YOUR WEDDING PLANS

This is a joyful time for you and your fiancé. It is a time for commitment not only to each other but also to God. Since you are committing your lives to each other in the presence of God, it should be a ceremony that is fitting and honoring to the Lord. The policies and instructions of Little Prairie UMC are set forth in this way to help make your wedding a worshipful experience.

III. OTHER ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Music: Your wedding will be a Christian wedding and the music should reflect Christian values. Since the wedding ceremony is uniquely personal and special to the bride and groom, the music should provide you an opportunity to testify of your love and devotion to one another and to the Lord. The music is a very important part of the ceremony and needs to be carefully planned and coordinated with the ceremony. The officiating pastor must approve the entire service, including the music.

Photographs: Flash photography or special lighting may not be used during the portions of the service in which there is speaking. Procession and recession photos with flash are permitted. The bride and groom are to inform the photographer about this. It is also recommended that you include a statement indicating this in your program/bulletin for your guests.

Video Taping: Video recording shall be planned in consultation with the Pastor.

Sound System: The church sound system is available for your wedding. It will be the responsibility of the bride and groom to communicate technical needs to the Pastor. A sound technician may be required depending on needs. Arrangements for a sound technician will be made through consultation with the Pastor.

Decorations: All decorations need to be pre-approved by the Pastor. It is the responsibility of the wedding party to remove all decorations immediately following the wedding. Name(s) of the person(s) responsible for removing the decorations should be provided in advance.

Gifts: All gifts must be removed from the church immediately following the wedding. It is recommended that you assign someone to be responsible for the care of gifts while at the church, and for transporting them after the ceremony.

Alcohol and smoking: Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on church property; smoking is permitted in designated areas outside the building.

Send-off: The church recommends that no rice or birdseed is to be thrown on the property. We suggest bubbles as an alternative to throwing rice or birdseed.

Nursery: The church nursery can be available for weddings and receptions. The wedding party must supply nursery workers and is responsible for making sure things are put away and left in an orderly fashion. Arrangements should be made with the Pastor.

REQUIRED FEES

Fee	Amount	Date Due	Notes
Damage Deposit	\$200	Due upon scheduling of church	This deposit is returned the week following the event, providing there is no damage done.
PREPARE Inventory	\$35	Due at first meeting	_ Life Innovations, Inc _ Offers a \$50 rebate on MN Marriage license
Officiating Pastor	\$175	Due 2 weeks prior to wedding	_ Includes counseling sessions _ Officiates ceremony

RATES FOR ROOMS:

Sanctuary (Ceremony)..... Non-Member - \$100.00; Member – Waived
Reception in the Fellowship hall.....\$200
Kitchen..... Included with Fellowship Hall
Bridal Area..... 0
Nursery..... 0

*Certain exceptions may be made at the pastor's discretion.

** If there is a reception at Little Prairie, but not a ceremony, then prices may vary depending on needs.

SUPPLEMENTAL FEES

Videographer.....\$50 could cover a sound technician and a basic DVD of the ceremony.

Due 2 weeks prior to wedding

_ Please discuss additional technology needs with the Pastor.

Instrumentalists*.....\$100

Due 2 weeks prior to wedding

_ Confer with couple on music selection

_ Attend and play at rehearsal and wedding

Vocal Soloist*.....\$100

Due 2 weeks prior to wedding

_ Confer with couple on music selection

_ Attend and sing at rehearsal and wedding

Wedding Programs.....\$20

Due 2 weeks prior to wedding

_ Set-up and printing fee

_ Any special paper must be provided by wedding couple 2 weeks prior to ceremony

_ Color Custom Bulletins can be printed for \$.06/copy

*Recommendations for musicians based on typical rates. You may have friends or others you may know of and can negotiate rates with.

PREMARITAL COUNSELING COVENANT

For couples planning their wedding with a Pastor from Little Prairie

A covenant is a binding agreement. It is our desire to not merely perform a wedding ceremony, but to prepare people for a lifetime of marriage. In order to best facilitate this, we require a minimum of three (3) counseling sessions with the pastor or another trained counselor. This includes the PREPARE Inventory computer profile of the couple, which is to be paid by the couple at the first counseling session.

Also, since it is our desire as a church to honor God with all our ministries, including weddings, we have here outlined some of the responsibilities of the couple that we feel will best honor and represent our Lord. This covenant also represents our desire to serve you, not only in your wedding, but also in your spiritual growth as individuals and as a couple. It assures you of having the best start possible for your marriage. Any questions or hesitations you may have should be directed to the officiating pastor. Please read over these items carefully, then sign and date the sheet as indication of your willingness to complete the covenant. Return this sheet to the Pastor. Thank you.

1. We will read and follow the Little Prairie Church WEDDING GUIDE.
2. We will be on time and prepared for each counseling session.
3. We will attend each counseling session with an honest and open heart.
4. We will keep ourselves sexually pure before God and each other during the time of our engagement and counseling.
5. We will regularly attend church together.
6. We will faithfully seek to honor each other as we prepare ourselves for a lifetime together.

Bride: _____ Date _____

Groom: _____ Date _____

Thank you for your cooperation!

CONTRACT AND RULES FOR USE OF Little Prairie CHURCH

1 You are responsible for reading and signing this contract prior to the event. All arrangements for use and all payments should be made through the Pastor.

2 You may decorate tastefully, in consultation with the Pastor. All areas used should be left as you found them.

3 The kitchen may be available for use. It is expected that the kitchen will be left in the condition in which it was found.

4 There are to be NO alcoholic beverages on the church property. Smoking is permitted only in designated areas outside the building.

5 Any beverage or food spilled is to be cared for promptly.

6 All food and decorations are to be removed by the responsible persons before leaving the premises. All trash should be removed to the garbage cans.

7 Use of candles must be pre-approved by the Pastor.

8 You are responsible for any damages to the church property or equipment.

9 A \$200.00 damage deposit shall be due at the time the wedding is booked. The Pastor will refund the deposit amount 1 week after the wedding, upon satisfactory inspection of the building.

10 All fees are to be paid in full two (2) weeks prior to the date of the Wedding. Each service rendered will require an individual payment submitted to the Wedding Director for distribution.

I have read and agree to the contract rules and fees for use of facilities of CROSSROADS CHURCH.

Rooms we plan to Use _____

Signature _____ Date _____

.....For Office Use Only.....

Amount of Deposit _____ Date received _____ by _____

Fees (in full) due on _____ Received _____ by _____

.....Tear-off Receipt.....

Bride/Groom: _____

Amount of Deposit _____ Date received _____ by _____

Fees (in full) due on _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION - BRIDE

Please complete and return to the Pastor prior to first counseling session.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Birth Date: _____

Occupation: _____ Phone: _____

Education: _____

How long have you attended Little Prairie? _____

Are you a member of another church? _____

Have you been married before? _____ Widowed or Divorced? _____

Does your family approve of this marriage? _____

If divorced, please respond to the following:

When were you divorced? _____

What were the circumstances for your divorce? _____

What steps did you take to attempt reconciliation? _____

Do you have children? _____ If so, explain their attitude about your

marriage: _____

Has your former spouse remarried? _____

Tell about your family (parents, brothers, sisters, where you grew up, etc.)

church background and conversion experience:

Family: _____

Church and spiritual experiences:

Conversion experience (when and where did you become a Christian?)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION - GROOM

Please complete and return to the Wedding Director prior to first counseling session.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Birth Date: _____

Occupation: _____ Phone: _____

Education: _____

How long have you attended Little Prairie? _____

Are you a member of another church? _____

Have you been married before? _____ Widowed or Divorced? _____

Does your family approve of this marriage? _____

If divorced, please respond to the following:

When were you divorced? _____

What were the circumstances for your divorce? _____

What steps did you take to attempt reconciliation? _____

Do you have children? _____ If so, explain their attitude about your

marriage: _____

Has your former spouse remarried? _____

Tell about your family (parents, brothers, sisters, where you grew up, etc.)

church background and conversion experience:

Family:

Church and spiritual experiences:

Conversion experience (when and where did you become a Christian?) _____

BACKGROUND INFORMATION - COUPLE

Please complete and return to the Pastor prior to first counseling session.

How long have you been dating? _____ engaged? _____

Are you currently living apart or together? _____

Are you sexually active in your relationship? _____

Where do you plan to live after your wedding? _____

Zip: _____

Will you be attending Little Prairie Church? _____

What relationships do you have at Little Prairie Church? _____

Have you attended any pre-marital seminars, had pre-marital (or divorce recovery) counseling, or read any books on marriage? (Please specify): _____

WEDDING INFORMATION

Please fill this out together and return to the Pastor. We understand that you may not know all of the details of your wedding ceremony at this time. Please fill in what you know. You will have an opportunity to revise this information as planning continues.

ABOUT YOU AND YOUR WEDDING

Bride's name: _____ Birth Date _____

Groom's name: _____ Birth Date _____

Wedding Date and Times _____

Rehearsal / Decorating Dates and Times _____

Bride Groom _____

Address _____ Address _____

City/Zip _____ City/Zip _____

Employer _____ Emp <http://www.imaginenomalaria.org/learn/>

Employer _____

Occupation _____ Occupation _____

Home Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Cell Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Email _____

THE CEREMONY

Officiating Pastor _____

Phone _____

Church Affiliation _____

Maid of Honor _____ Best Man _____

Attendants _____ Attendants _____

Ushers _____

Flower Girl _____ Ring Bearer _____

Bride to be given away by (name/relation): _____

Pianist _____

Other Musician(s) _____

Music Selections _____

Readers/Other Speakers and Selections _____

Other special parts of the ceremony:

Number of guests anticipated: _____

Chair arrangement in Great Room (center or side aisles):

Receiving line (dismissing by bride and groom, in church foyer, at reception):

Photographer _____

Photographer's planned time of arrival _____

When are pictures planned? Before and/or after ceremony _____

Florist _____

Florist delivery time _____

Whom do you plan to have pin on corsages and boutonnieres?

Person(s) responsible for removing all decorations and personal belongings from the church after the wedding (must be done the day of the wedding). Please indicate relationship to wedding couple.

THE RECEPTION

Reception Hall

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Transportation Planned to the Reception:

THE REHEARSAL

Rehearsal dinner location:

Planned/Expected time of rehearsal dinner:
