

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH POLICIES

Policy No: 401
Subject: Wedding Policy
Date Adopted: October 19, 2010; Revised October ____, 2015
Committee: Altar Guild

Weddings at Christ Episcopal Church are scheduled at the discretion of the rector. At least one of the partners must be a baptized Christian and at least one of the partners must be a member in good standing of Christ Episcopal Church, or closely related to a member in good standing. The ceremony must be attested to by at least two witnesses and the marriage must conform to the laws of the State of Minnesota and the canons of the Church.

The partners to be married are required to engage in counseling with the rector or in a process approved by the rector, with both partners present. In situations in which one or both of the partners is living out of town, counseling can be arranged to be done by an Episcopal priest elsewhere or a suitable counselor. Those arrangements need to be approved by the rector.

If either partner has been divorced or has separated from a pledged life-partner, approval for the celebration must be obtained from the Bishop of Minnesota. Divorce decrees and custodial arrangements for children, if any, must be provided to the rector.

Because marriage is a sacrament of the church, the rector has final responsibility for determining the appropriateness of all arrangements and details. The Book of Common Prayer provides the framework for the service, which will be designed by the rector in partnership with the couple. Eucharist is a normal part of the ceremony but may be omitted, upon the approval of the rector. When Eucharist is celebrated as a part of the marriage ceremony, all will be invited to share in the sacrament.

The rector officiates at weddings. Clergy from other Episcopal churches or other denominations are welcome to assist in or to conduct the ceremony, with the approval of the rector.

The church organist plays for weddings. The organist will help in the selection of music and will advise as to what music is appropriate and permitted. All music is subject to the approval of the rector. If an outside organist will be provided, the organist must be approved by the church organist, and a consultation fee will be required. Only approved organists are allowed to use the organ. The rector must approve a vocal or instrumental soloist.

The church may be decorated, but the liturgical color for a wedding is white. The Altar Guild director, in consultation with the rector, must approve all decoration.

The fee schedule is attached.

FEEES FOR WEDDINGS AT CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

	NOTES	PAYEE	MEMBERS
CLERGY		Clergy	Discretion of persons being married
ALTAR GUILD		Christ Church Altar Guild	\$200
WEDDING COORDINATION FEE			\$300
CUSTODIAN SERVICES			\$75
ORGANIST	(1)	Organist	\$250
	fee to church organist if outside organist is used (3)	Organist	\$75
INSTRUMENT FEE	(3)	Christ Episcopal Church	None
CHURCH USE (WEDDING ONLY)		Christ Episcopal Church	None
CHAPEL USE (WEDDING ONLY)		Christ Episcopal Church	None
CHURCH USE (PARISH HALL FOR RECEPTION)		Christ Episcopal Church	Determined in consultation with Clergy
DEPOSIT	(2)	Christ Episcopal Church	None required for members

- (1) The Organist’s fee includes one consultation about music, and playing for Wedding Rehearsal and Wedding Ceremony. Additional meetings requiring the organist’s time, including rehearsal with other musicians, will be charged at \$35 per hour by the organist.
- (2) Non-refundable deposit to book church for that date.
- (3) If there will be no keyboard music, there will be no bench fee or instrument fee.