

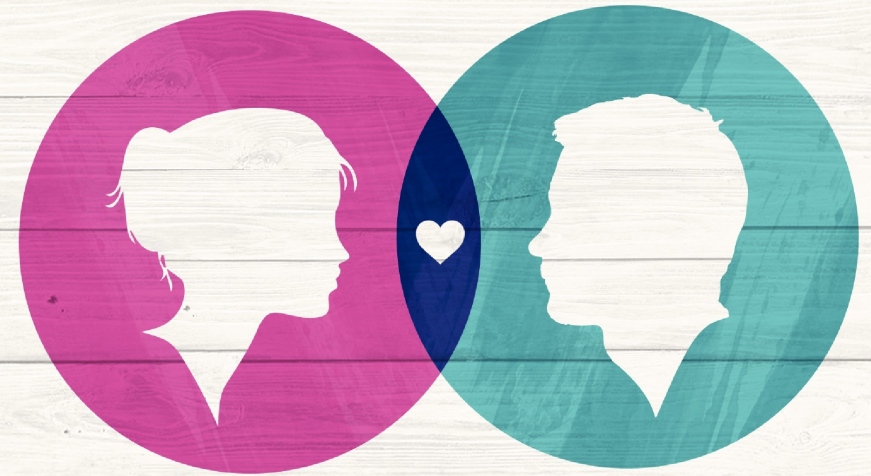
## *The Order for a Service of Marriage*

Your Service of Marriage can take many forms and can express your own creativity within the traditional Methodist Service. Christian marriage is proclaimed during the service as a sacred covenant reflecting the Baptismal Covenant, and everything about the service is designed to witness that this is a Christian marriage. For a starting point, the traditional basic Order for the Service of Marriage is printed below.

More information on this service format can be found at:  
<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-service-of-christian-marriage-l>

### Order for the Service of Marriage

Prelude  
Seating of the Families  
Procession of the Wedding Party  
Procession of the Bridal Party  
Greeting  
Declaration of Intention  
Presentation of the Bride  
Response of the Families and the Congregation  
Prayer  
Music or Scripture Readings  
Homily  
Exchange of Vows  
Blessing and Exchange of Rings  
Declaration of Marriage  
Intercessory Prayer  
Blessing of the Marriage  
Holy Communion (If desired)  
Dismissal with Blessing  
Introduction of the Bride and Groom  
Recessional  
Postlude



*Two* WILL BECOME *One*  
MARK 10:7-8

Wedding Information  
for  
**Saint Paul's**  
**United Methodist Church**

## ***Congratulations on your engagement!***

You and your fiancé have made one of the biggest decisions of your life, and we are excited that you have considered St. Paul's to be a part of your special day. Our prayers are with you as you and your fiancé prepare for this holy occasion, and as you live your life together as husband and wife.

When a couple decides to be married at St. Paul's, more is involved than the use of a beautiful sanctuary and the presence of a Pastor. The marriage ceremony in a church is a worship service in the presence of God, family and friends; where the bride and groom express their sacred intention to live together as husband and wife in faith and love with each other. We at St. Paul's seek to create a space that affirms God's love during your wedding, setting you off on your life together well.

We hope this guide is helpful in planning for your special day and helps to inform you about the policies and procedures here at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. We are here for you and hope your wedding is an occasion that celebrates the love you both have for each other as well as the love God has for you.

Sincerely,

Your Friends at St. Paul's UMC

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## **Here are the many ways you can connect with us:**

800 SE 41st Avenue  
Ocala, FL 34471-4870

Phone: 352-694-2161  
Fax: 352-694-1207

[info@spocala.org](mailto:info@spocala.org)

Watch Sunday sermons and get more  
information about St. Paul's at our website:

**[www.spocala.org](http://www.spocala.org)**

**Follow Us On**



**YouTube**

## ***Wedding Facility Fee Schedule***

The marriage is the church's first concern. To that end, the minister and the church are willing to make financial adjustments in warranted cases. Please note that if your date is available a nonrefundable \$500 deposit is required to reserve the date.

The Wedding fee is \$1000 for members and nonmembers. This includes a five hour rental of the Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall, the minister to officiate the wedding and any sound tech to facilitate music, slide show or musicians needed for the service and/or reception.

### **Damage Deposit**

In addition to the wedding fee, a damage and cleaning deposit of \$250.00 is required for both the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. This amount is refunded within 10 days after the wedding, provided there has been no damage to church facilities or no extra cleaning required by the custodian beyond what is considered normal.

### **NOTE:**

- The remaining payment of \$750 (including a \$250 damage deposit) for the wedding facility is required to be made 30 days prior to the wedding day.

Any decorations placed on the Altar Table must be respectful to the sacred nature of the space, and approved by the Minister and the wedding coordinator.

Any flowers, palms, potted greenery or standing candelabra should be carefully placed so as not to hide the altar, pulpit, or lectern. Everything should be arranged to direct attention to the altar.

All decorations will be removed from the church immediately following the wedding, unless other arrangements have been made with the minister.

When candles are used, there should always be a plastic cloth underneath them to prevent wax dripping on the carpet or furnishings.

A kneeling bench is available for the sanctuary if requested.

### *Wedding Reception*

Receptions may be held in the Fellowship Hall. Contact the wedding coordinator for more information regarding receptions.

### *Alcohol Policy*

There will be no alcoholic beverages served on the church premises at any time. Members of the wedding party shall refrain from the use of intoxicants prior to and during the wedding. Covenant relationships must always be undertaken with unimpaired minds and hearts.

### *Smoking*

St. Paul's is a smoke-free campus, and smoking is prohibited on church property.

### *Marriage License*

Your marriage license must be delivered to the Pastor 48 hours before the wedding.

## *The Christian Marriage Service*

Your wedding is a sacred occasion, a chance to celebrate and affirm God's love. The love required for this lifelong commitment is truly something to celebrate! In the United Methodist tradition, the Service of Christian Marriage involves vows on the part of you & your fiancé as well as promises made by the congregation to uphold you in your marriage covenant and support you with their friendship and prayers. Just as the saying goes that it takes a village to raise a child, we believe it also takes a village to create a lasting and healthy marriage. If you do not already have a church home, we would love for you to consider being a part of our community "village" here at St. Paul's!

If the Sacrament of Holy Communion is desired for your wedding ceremony, please know that the United Methodist Church practices an open table, meaning that all present when the sacrament is celebrated are invited to the communion table.

In accordance with the 2016 United Methodist Church *Book of Discipline*, paragraph 2702.1, St. Paul's cannot conduct a marriage ceremony for same-sex couples, nor can the minister conduct such ceremonies off-premises.

### *Arrangements*

The first step in planning your church wedding is to contact the church office to discuss your preferred date(s). It is most important that this be done well in advance of your projected wedding date. The Church Administrator can help you with scheduling your wedding date. After this occurs the Church Administrator will pass your information to the Wedding Coordinator to begin planning your special day.

In order to secure the date on the church calendar, we ask that you complete the wedding information form and pay your \$500 deposit. We cannot book your wedding date until a deposit and wedding information form have been received.

## *The Minister*

It is customary that the wedding be conducted by the pastor of St. Paul's. There are very few exceptions to this rule. If you desire another minister to perform your wedding, you must first make this request known to the pastor who will, in turn, discuss it with you and may extend an invitation to another minister or not. Under no circumstances will another minister be allowed to conduct your wedding without approval of, and possible assistance from, the pastor of St. Paul's.

The pastor will meet with the couple at least 30 days prior to the wedding to discuss marriage counseling.

## *Music*

To make your wedding both beautiful and meaningful, and to preserve its reverent significance, requires much thought and preparation by the bride and groom, the minister, and all musicians. It is preferred that the organist/pianist be a church employee, or in case of conflicting schedules, they will make arrangements for a suitable substitute. In the event you have a friend or relative that you would like to use, they must meet with and be approved by the church organist/pianist. The church musician will also guide you in the selection of appropriate music for your church worship service. If a soloist is used, these arrangements should be made directly with the individual, however, help can be given to you in this area should you desire it.

Choose all of your music carefully, making sure it is suitable for a church environment and a Christian worship service. The music you select must be approved in advance by the church musician and the minister. Recordings may be used, but the sound technicians of the church must be contacted to utilize the system.

## *Video and Photography*

The wedding party is encouraged to suggest to their families and guests that there should be no flash photography during the ceremony. The photographer should have at least one personal or phone contact with the minister prior to the wedding to discuss

arrangements. Every effort should be taken to make the photography equipment as quiet as possible, and the photographer should never block the line of sight between the congregation and the cross. The minister will be glad to cooperate with you in posing for pictures with the wedding party before or after the ceremony.

## *Wedding Coordinator*

It is the policy of St. Paul's that the wedding coordinator be present at all weddings, vow renewals, and rehearsals. This is done to assist the minister, the families and guests of the bride and groom, and to assure the wedding runs smoothly. This person will open the church for the rehearsal, the wedding, the florist, etc., turn on lights, air/heat, and answer your questions regarding St. Paul's facilities and policies. The coordinator will direct your wedding, assuring you of proper procedure and customary etiquette practices on your wedding day.

An outside bridal consultant or wedding planner is welcome to be a part of the ceremony, but they must cooperate with the Wedding Coordinator of St. Paul's.

## *Decorations*

The church can be made as festive and beautiful as possible, keeping in mind that it is a place of worship, and that the event is a Christian worship ceremony.

If the decoration is to be done by a florist or friend, it is important that they know and understand the rules and policies, thereby maintaining the atmosphere of the church.

No altar furnishings (such as the communion table, pulpit, lectern, piano, organ, or choir chairs) can be moved from their locations.

Ribbons or simple flower arrangements may mark reserved pews, but no nails, screws, tacks, wires or scotch tape may be used on any furnishings or walls. Covered floral wire is recommended. No decorations may be hung from light fixtures or air vents.

There is to be no bird seed, rice, or confetti used in the sanctuary or fellowship hall.