

**United Presbyterian Church in East Guilford, New York**

**Policy on Weddings (for non-members)**

**Weddings are a time of celebration for you, your family, and your friends. The church also celebrates with you as you give your promises to each other in the presence of God. The Christian marriage ceremony is a service of worship before God and therefore certain guidelines are present when the marriage ceremony is held in the church. These rules prevail;**

- 1. Although the church welcomes all people to its care and nurture, in performing a Christian marriage ceremony, it expects that at least one of the partners is a professing Christian. It is also hoped that the couple together share a common faith in Jesus Christ and plan to establish a Christian home.**
- 2. A request for use of the church must be submitted in advance to the Pastor and the Session, the local governing body of the Presbyterian church, who will decide whether to grant the request.**
- 3. Since a wedding in the church is purposely to glorify and worship God, ostentation is discouraged. Choice of music, flowers, dress and picture taking must reflect this purpose. Secular music is generally inappropriate. No photographs are allowed during the ceremony, but the photographer may be able to take non-flash pictures or video from an unobtrusive place in the balcony.**
- 4. Premarital counseling must be done by the pastor and will include 3 – two hour sessions. This will be done in advance with both prospective marriage partners present. One of these sessions will involve planning the ceremony.**
- 5. Neither rice nor confetti may be thrown inside or outside the church. Birdseed may be used outside the church. We encourage the use of bubbles for these purposes.**
- 6. Rehearsals are to begin on schedule with all members present and on-time. The minister need not be invited to the rehearsal dinner, or, to the reception.**
- 7. At the rehearsal, these items must be presented to the Pastor;**
  - a. The marriage license**
  - b. Unity or other candles to be used in ceremony (if any).**
  - c. All fees are as follows;**
    - 1. Organist, \$100**
    - 2. Custodian, \$50 for use of sanctuary, additional \$50 for fellowship hall**
    - 3. Minister, \$100**
    - 4. Use of church sanctuary, \$50**
    - 5. Use of church fellowship hall, \$50**
    - 6. A refundable \$200 deposit is required for use of either the church sanctuary or the fellowship hall.**
- 8. No smoking or alcoholic beverages are permitted on church property at any time.**

*Revised: May 11, 2009*