

Wedding Policy

Trinity United Methodist Church
143 West Main Street
Orange, VA 22960
(540) 672-3544

We at Trinity United Methodist Church believe that the covenant of marriage is a sacred covenant between two individuals and God. We believe you come to Trinity UMC seeking its blessing and to learn from this community of faith how you may affirm your marriage and establish this relationship for a lifetime. While the minister serves as the legal agent in the acquisition of your marriage license, we believe the minister primarily serves as the spiritual guide for your marriage. In this way, the church seeks to provide you the very best our congregation has to offer as you begin your married lives together.

1. The Wedding Celebration is a sacred occasion of worship and an expression of a couple's faith. We would hope that an engaged couple would exercise a serious intention to become active members of the Christian Church, if not already members. ******Those not active in a local congregation are strongly encouraged to become active at least three months prior to the scheduled wedding.

2. All dates must be confirmed at least three months prior to the scheduled event. The date(s) will be reserved upon approval of the minister.

3. Together with you, the minister will make arrangements for the Service of Marriage. All aspects of the ceremony should be worked out with the minister prior to the date of the rehearsal. *****Engaged couples are **required** to participate in pre-marital counseling, and the minister will happily arrange such conferences to talk with you about your plans and preparations.

4. **GUEST MINISTERS:** Other United Methodist ministers are permitted, provided the minister of Trinity UMC is consulted and notified well in advance of the wedding. Clergy of other denominations may be allowed to assist Trinity UMC's minister in conducting a wedding ceremony.

5. **MUSIC:** Wedding music should be in keeping with the occasion of Christian worship. Guest musicians are permitted only after Trinity UMC's musicians have had first refusal or are otherwise unable to perform at your wedding.

6. **DECORATIONS:** During certain times of the year, there will be liturgical decorations in place in the sanctuary (example: lilies at Easter or poinsettias around Christmas). These decorations should not be removed or altered in any way. If damage results to the church or its furnishings from failure to observe these regulations and/or neglect to exercise reasonable care, the cost of the repair shall be the obligation of the bride and groom. All wedding decorations are to be in place at least two hours before the wedding service and must be removed within two hours following the reception.

7. Decorations are not to disguise the sanctuary. Flowers, palms, potted greenery, and candelabras should be placed so as not to hide **furniture** or symbols of faith. Church furniture may not be moved without consent of the minister. If items are moved, they are to be returned to their original location following the service. In using candles, care must be taken to insure both the safety and protection of the church building.

8. **PHOTOGRAPHY:** Flash photography is permitted during the wedding ceremony, but a photographer must consult with the minister prior to the service. Videotaping is also permitted from certain locations in the sanctuary, but video equipment must be in place one hour before the service. Photography and videotaping should never draw attention away from the sacred nature of the occasion or the couple.

9. **COSTS:** There is no established fee for the use of Trinity UMC's sanctuary or social hall. However, couples are **strongly** encouraged to consider an honorarium to offset janitorial and utility fees. **Checks can be made out to Trinity UMC

10. The minister charges the following fees. Amounts include premarital counseling.
Members of Trinity UMC: \$ 150
Non-members: \$250

11. Members of the wedding party are to be at the church one hour before the wedding ceremony. The marriage license is to be obtained by the couple and presented to the minister prior to the rehearsal.

12. The officiating minister reserves the right to refuse marriage to anyone deemed unprepared or unfit for marriage. This includes any information revealed during premarital counseling sessions. The minister also reserves the right to refuse marriage to anyone who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs on, or before, the day of the wedding ceremony.