

PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE WEDDING

The Pastor

The officiating pastor is the minister on staff at FCPC responsible for the service. He or she is the primary contact for the bride and groom in terms of preparing for the wedding, premarital counseling, the rehearsal and the wedding service. Clergy from other traditions often co-officiate at weddings at FCPC and are invited by the Session of the church through the officiating pastor. If you would like to have other clergy involved, speak with the FCPC pastor before extending an invitation.

The officiating pastor will work with the bride and groom to make the service meaningful and personal. Specific wishes of the couple will be honored as much as possible. The goal is to complete all the planning for the wedding service so everything is settled before the rehearsal begins.

The pastors are honored to receive invitations to rehearsal dinners and wedding receptions. At times they are able to attend. Frequently they are not because of the sheer volume of weddings at the church as well as their other professional and family responsibilities.

The Wedding Consultant

The coordinator of the wedding consultants will assign a volunteer wedding consultant to help you work through all the practical concerns related to your wedding at the church. She serves as the liaison between you and the church and provides an invaluable service upon which you can rely.

This consultant will contact you a few weeks before the wedding day. You may request a consultation earlier by asking the Administrative Assistant for Church Administration for the consultant's phone number.

Appendix 2 contains a wedding worksheet for you to use in your work with both the officiating pastor and the wedding consultant.

The wedding consultant can assist in arranging for items the church provides on an optional basis. She can assist with special requests. And she can provide information about the church's facility and procedures.

The wedding consultant will be present at the rehearsal and the wedding. She is stationed in the Narthex to direct the wedding party so the processional and recessional will go smoothly.

The Director of Music Ministries

Musicians on the church staff are granted the privilege of playing for all weddings. Normally this will be the Director of Music Ministries or the Assistant Organist. On the rare occasions when neither is available they will arrange for a substitute musician. The church ensures music of the highest quality.

Contact the Director of Music Ministries three months prior to the service to discuss the music. If you desire soloists and/or instrumentalists, the Director of Music Ministries has the responsibility of securing the services of available persons. Fees for additional musicians are determined on an individual basis. If you have friends or family members whom you wish to play an instrument or sing, please discuss this with the Director of Music Ministries before any invitations are extended.

Photographers

Professional photographers provide a valuable service in recording this event so you may enjoy keepsakes for a lifetime. We welcome their contribution.

It is important to take a copy of the "Guidelines for Photographers" to all who will take photographs or video camera recordings. Professional photographers understand the wedding is a worship experience where a reverential atmosphere is maintained. They do not want to be a distraction or interruption.

Our pastors encourage photographers to check with the pastor before the service to see if there are any questions or to discuss special needs.

It will be important to communicate to the congregation that using still or video cameras of any kind is not appropriate during the wedding service. A kind but firm note in the bulletin is helpful and the ushers will remind people bringing cameras into the sanctuary that no pictures may be taken during the service.

Florists

Florists provide a valuable service in enhancing the wedding through the beauty of God's creation. Take a copy of the "Guidelines for Florists" so they will know the church's needs and guidelines.