

Dreisbach United Church of Christ Wedding Procedures and Contract

Introduction

Christian weddings are worship services. As a Church, we are responsible for ensuring ceremonies be carried out in a worshipful, Christ-centered manner. Therefore, all weddings performed at Dreisbach Church will be in harmony with the best principles of Christian worship.

Selecting a Date

1. Contact Dreisbach's Pastor to check the availability of your preferred date. If your date is free, the Pastor will send you a copy of these procedures.
2. If you agree to the stipulations in these procedures, complete and sign it. This is a legally binding contract. Dreisbach Church will hold you responsible for the details contained herein. Retain a copy for your files.
3. Return the procedures/contract to the church with your deposit and a letter to the Dreisbach Church Consistory requesting approval for the date of your wedding. The Consistory generally meets the second Tuesday of every month.
4. Once the Consistory approves the date, your wedding date will officially be placed on the church calendar. You will be notified of the Consistory's approval in writing.

Pre-Marital Counseling

Studies have conclusively found that pre-marital counseling significantly improves a couple's chance for a happy, healthy, and successful marriage. Therefore, all couples married at Dreisbach Church must take part in pre-marital counseling which should total no less than six hours. If Dreisbach's Pastor is performing the ceremony, the couple should contact him/her no less than four months prior to the wedding to schedule the counseling. A portion of the counseling time will be devoted to planning your wedding ceremony. If another Pastor is performing the ceremony, the couple is still required to undergo pre-marital counseling totaling no less than six hours. A certificate/letter of completion is required from the organization/person performing the pre-marital counseling. The certificate/letter must be given to Dreisbach's Pastor no less than one month prior to your wedding. If no such documentation is provided, Dreisbach Church reserves the right to cancel your wedding.

Staff

1. Dreisbach's Pastor reserves the right to perform any ceremony held at Dreisbach. S/he can grant this responsibility to another ordained minister in good standing with a recognized Christian denomination. If an ordained minister other than Dreisbach's Pastor is granted the privilege of performing the ceremony, she/he must provide proof in writing to the Dreisbach Pastor that he/she is in good standing with a recognized Christian denomination no less than one month prior to the ceremony.
2. If you would like Dreisbach's Pastor to attend your rehearsal dinner and/or wedding reception, s/he must receive an invitation(s) sent to his/her home address.
3. Dreisbach's Organist(s) will play at all weddings unless other arrangements are approved by the Organist(s).
4. Dreisbach's Custodian must be used at all weddings.
5. A Dreisbach Sound System Technician must be used at all weddings.

Facilities Use

1. Smoking (including e-cigarettes) is not permitted in the building.
2. For weddings, alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the building or on church grounds. If communion is being served at the wedding, it is permitted to use wine. If either the bride or groom is intoxicated (through either alcohol or drugs) at either the rehearsal or wedding, the Church reserves the right to cancel the wedding.
3. Confetti, rice, and birdseed may not be thrown in the building or on church grounds.
4. Nothing in the Sanctuary may be altered or removed or changed (this includes altar cloths).
5. Wedding parties may dress at the church but only in designated areas.
6. The Wedding Party is responsible for leaving the church buildings clean and orderly. If they do not, Dreisbach Church reserves the right to require an additional cleaning fee.
7. Receptions can be held in the Social Hall. Additional fees and conditions apply. If interested, please speak with the Pastor.

Media

So as to preserve the sacredness of the worship service *and* to give the couple and their guests the best experience possible, the following policies are in place:

1. No flash photography/bright spotlights (by either a professional photographer/videographer OR guests) may be taken/used from after the processional until the pronouncement of the couple.
2. Dreisbach requires a note be put in the bulletin/program reminding guests that flash photography is not permitted and reminding guests to silence their cellphones.
3. Videographers are permitted, but only from certain vantage points approved by the Pastor.
4. Once the ceremony has started, the photographer and/or videographer must not be in the front half of the Sanctuary.
5. It is the couple's responsibility to print programs/bulletins.

Music

1. All music will be fitting with Christian values and principles.
2. Special music selections must be approved by the Pastor.
3. If a soloist is accompanied by Dreisbach's Organist, an additional fee will apply.

Decorations

1. Only artificial flower petals may be strewn in the building (including the Sanctuary).
2. The couple is responsible for providing their own flowers, unity candle, aisle runner and any other decorations. Any arrangements left at the church will be distributed at Dreisbach's discretion.
3. Dreisbach's altar candles and candelabras can be used for weddings at no additional charge.

Rehearsals

1. Rehearsals must be scheduled at the same time as the wedding.
2. Rehearsals (including any set-up of decorations) may not exceed 2 hours.
3. The Wedding License must be given to the Pastor at the rehearsal.

Fees

1. All fees are to be paid on the night of the wedding rehearsal except the non-refundable deposit which is due when you submit your contract. Separate checks should be written for each fee.
2. Dreisbach reserves the right to change fees at any time up to one month before the ceremony.
3. The Pastor (in consultation with the Dreisbach Church Consistory) reserves the right to waive any fees.

Fee Schedule

Members (bride, groom, or one of their parents/guardians) and Associate Members (bride, groom, or one of their parents/guardians) of Dreisbach Church

Non-Refundable Deposit	\$25
Church	No Fee
Pastor	Honorarium (no less than \$250)
Organist	\$150 (if a soloist is used, an additional fee of \$25 applies)
Custodian	\$50
Sound System Technician	\$100

Inactive Members and Non-members

Non-Refundable Deposit	\$75
Security Deposit	\$200 (A separate check must be written for this deposit. If the building is left clean and orderly, this check will be returned by mail after your wedding. The Pastor and Custodian, with input from the Trustees, will decide if the deposit will be returned.)
Sanctuary	\$150
Pastor	\$300
Organist	\$150 (if a soloist is used, an additional fee of \$25 applies)
Custodian	\$50
Sound System Technician	\$100

Contact Information

Bride's Name: _____

Groom's Name: _____

Bride's Address: _____

Groom's Address: _____

Bride's Telephone: _____

Groom's Telephone: _____

Bride's Email: _____

Groom's Email: _____

Wedding and Rehearsal Dates and Times

Wedding Date: _____

Wedding Time: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____

Rehearsal Time: _____

We agree to all of the above stipulations and fees.

Bride

Date

Groom

Date