

Traditional Elements of a Church Wedding Ceremony

- Prelude (music played while guests enter)
- Processional (entrance music for wedding party)
- Greeting
- Prayer
- Declaration of Intent
- (Song and/or reading - optional)
- Pastoral Reflection
- The Wedding Vows
- The Exchange of Rings
- Pronouncement of Marriage
- (Song, Reading and/or Lighting of Unity Candle - optional)
- Prayer
- Blessings and Benediction
- Presentation
- Recessional (leaving music for the wedding party)
- Postlude (music played while guests leave)

Suggested Donations for Weddings Hosted at Bethany UCC

We have divided the suggested donations and honoraria into two categories:

Member: One of the wedding couple **or** one of their parents are recorded in the Bethany Directory

Non Member: The couple and their family are not members and have no connection to Bethany UCC.

Suggested donations* are as follows:

Members:

Church Building Use - \$ 200 deposit (to be refunded in full if the couple cleans up after the ceremony. Otherwise, a custodian will be paid for cleaning and any remaining funds refunded).

Honoraria** for the following:

- Officiant other than Rev. Cran: Per their instructions
- Bethany Pianist (if used): \$ 150
- Organist: per their instructions
- Wedding Service Coordinator (if required): \$ 150
- AV Coordinator (if required): \$ 150
- Sound Tech (if required): \$ 50

Non Members

Church Building Use - \$ 500 (\$ 200 of which may be refunded in the deposit if couple cleans up after the ceremony)

Honoraria as Listed above plus Honorarium for the Rev. Kim Mislin Cran (if used): \$ 300

* If the suggested donations present a hardship, please speak with Pastor Kim

** The Honorarias are paid to the individuals, not to the church. We will provide a list of the names of the people participating in your wedding ceremony.

Note: If you plan to have your reception in the Church Social Hall, please complete the Social Hall Building Use Form as found on our website. It contains information regarding cost and guidelines.



Weddings at Bethany

Bethany United Church of Christ
1235 Broad Blvd., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223
Phone: 330.923.5277

Website: www.bethanyucc.org

Facebook: [@uccBethany](https://www.facebook.com/uccBethany)

YouTube: [BethanyUCC - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/BethanyUCC)

Pastor: Rev. Kim Mislin Cran pastor@bethanyucc.org
Facilities Manager: John Wachovec facilities@bethanyucc.org

(Updated 10.01.2024)

Congratulations! We at Bethany United Church of Christ welcome the opportunity to assist with your wedding ceremony. We view marriage as a gift of God and a means of grace and want to insure that you not only have a memorable ceremony but also have the support for a healthy marriage.

First Steps

1. If you are interested in having your marriage ceremony at Bethany United Church of Christ, the first step is to contact our Facilities Manager, John Wachovec (facilities@bethanyucc.org), and do the following:

- A. See if the date you want for your wedding ceremony is available, and
- B. Make an appointment with John to view the church (if you are unfamiliar with it).

2. If you would like Pastor Kim to officiate at your wedding, you would then schedule an in person or virtual appointment with her (pastor@bethanyucc.org) to get acquainted and discuss your wedding ceremony. If you plan to have your ceremony at a location other than Bethany and want Pastor Kim to officiate at the ceremony, please contact her directly to discuss her availability (no need to first contact John Wachovec).

*If you are requesting that another person preside at your wedding, you can speak with Pastor Kim about this over the telephone (no in person or virtual meeting required).

If Pastor Kim is officiating at your wedding (either at Bethany or at another location) she will arrange to meet with you for a sufficient number of sessions in order to ensure that together you have designed a ceremony that reflects the love and values you bring to your marriage. She is also available to meet with you to discuss your relationship and the opportunities and challenges of marriage.

If your wedding is at Bethany and will have over 50 guests, we require our Church Wedding Service Coordinator to assist you with logistics of the rehearsal and ceremony. If you want the ceremony live streamed or sent out via Zoom, we require that our Audio Visual Coordinator manage the AV for the ceremony.

Next Steps for Weddings at Bethany

We ask you to please keep the following information in mind as you plan your wedding ceremony at Bethany United Church of Christ:

Content of Ceremony

- Please see that your ceremony is respectful of the faith tradition of our congregation. Pastor Kim can assist in determining if the elements of your desired ceremony are appropriate for our church. A list of elements commonly found in a *traditional* ceremony is on the back of this brochure.
- You are responsible for obtaining a Unity Candle Set, should you wish to use one.
- The State of Ohio requires that a license for marriage be obtained by the couple who plan to marry. Please give the license to the pastor at the rehearsal (or before the ceremony if there is no rehearsal); it will be returned to you or the person you designate on the day of your wedding ceremony.

Music

- If you wish to have a pianist for your ceremony, our church musician has first refusal for playing for your ceremony. If you wish to have an organist for your ceremony, we can make the initial contact for you. Please note that organists and musicians from outside of the Bethany Staff may have a fee that is different from the honoraria of our Bethany musician.
- If requested the musician will play for twenty minutes before the announced hour for the wedding.
- The musician's responsibilities include assisting the couple in selecting music and playing for the rehearsal and weddings. Should you also wish the musician to have additional rehearsals to coach soloists or guest musicians, they will be compensated at an additional \$ 25.00 per hour.
- If you would prefer pre-recorded music, our sanctuary is equipped for such a request, but requires the presence of our Audio Visual Coordinator.

Rehearsals

- No rehearsal is required If the wedding party is small (no more than 4 adults), you expect less than 50 guests, and are looking for an informal ceremony. The decision for having a rehearsal is left to the discretion of the Pastor. If a rehearsal is required please allot an hour and arrive promptly.

Photography/Videography

- In order to prevent distractions during your ceremony, please make note of the following:
 - Flash photography is not permitted during the ceremony. Please advise your photographer and guests to refrain from flash photography.
 - The photographer may not move around in the Chancel area during the ceremony.
 - A stationary video camera may be placed in a discrete location per approval of the pastor, or we can record the ceremony for you. Note: If we do a video recording of your ceremony, it will not have the same quality as one produced by a videographer.
 - We have the ability to live stream and Zoom your service (Zoom allows people who cannot be present to participate and interact by doing a reading, etc.).
 - Please ask your photographer/videographer to check in with the pastor to confirm their understanding of the guidelines for photographers prior to the ceremony.

Building Use

- The Sanctuary contains 30 pews, seats 300 and has a 75' church aisle. If you plan to have flower petals strewn on the aisle you must obtain an aisle cloth (runner) from your florist.
- No smoking/vaping or alcoholic beverages are allowed anywhere in the church building.
- The church will be open 1.5 hours before the announced time for the wedding. The bridal party and florist, as well as guests, are expected to arrive within that period. Everyone is expected to depart within 2 hours of the schedule time for the ceremony (unless you are having the wedding reception in the Social Hall. Please see separate additional information about Social Hall rental).
- Ordinarily a wedding will not be scheduled closer than four hours to a previously scheduled wedding, or on a major holiday weekend. Please speak with Pastor Kim if you want an exception to that policy.
- Because of the difficulty in cleaning the church, rice, confetti or birdseed are not to be used inside or outside the church building. Bells (inside or out) or bubbles (outside) may be used.