

Information for Planning Your Wedding at Bethlehem Church

As you prepare and plan for your wedding you will want to be aware of the following:

† **This is a Christian ceremony.** It is worship. Weddings held at Bethlehem Church will be religious in form and we will hold to the traditions of the Christian faith.

† **You will need to secure the wedding license.** It may be obtained at the York County Courthouse in the office of the Orphan's Court. They may also be secured in any courthouse in the state of Pennsylvania for your convenience. To be married in Pennsylvania, you may not have a license from another state.

† **Pre-marital Counseling is important for two reasons:** 1. To plan your wedding service and 2. To provide a time of sharing to anticipate the aspects of a healthy marriage. Depending upon time available, couples should plan on at least two sessions with the pastor. In the event that a guest pastor is chosen, that pastor should plan to care for all planning and counseling. It is usual for the host pastor to be included in the service.

† **Wedding music is to be planned with our organist, Mrs. Torus Crouse.** Mrs. Crouse has a vast repertoire of music which makes us confident she will meet your needs. Other musicians may be used, but organists must be approved for use of our instrument. Music for worship is to be chosen in good taste. Secular songs may be included, but usually as part of the Prelude selections. You may choose soloists to be part of your wedding, and they should plan to meet with the church organist for rehearsal.

† **Bulletins or programs may be done two ways.** If you choose the bulletin covers at a Christian Book Store and we would be glad to print them for you, or you may use your creative skills and hire a printer to do something special. This is discussed at your planning meeting.

† **Flowers and decorations may be placed tastefully in the sanctuary.** If you wish to use the Altar Vases, you must make plans to do so, as they take special liners. If you have questions about what is acceptable, please do not hesitate to ask. Please refrain from using scotch tape for decorating.

† **Candles are frequently used during a wedding service.** We charge \$1.00 for each candle used. We have several different candelabra and will show them to you as you visit. We also have pew candles that you may use. Some couples like that effect at night.

Many couples choose to use the Unity Candle as part of their service. You may purchase the Unity Candle set at most any Christian Book Store. You may also have your florist set this up for you.

† **Photography/Videography** – Of course we want to make a permanent record of your great day. We request that photographers be discreet in their work. When worship begins no flash photography is permitted and we request that photographers do not go further than the last row where people are seated.

Videographers should follow the same rules, but may also be stationed in a strategic spot. Once placed, Movement should be kept to a minimum.

† **Times for your wedding is at your discretion**, so long as the church calendar permits. Normal day and time for the rehearsal is usually 6:30 pm.

† **Dressing at the church is easily done**. We will assign you your space on the night of rehearsal.

† **Alcoholic beverages and tobacco products** are not permitted in Bethlehem Church.

† **We do not permit the use of rice or bird seed**. You may, of course, use bubbles, bells, etc. If you have questions, please ask the Pastor.

† **As a final note** – the Pastor is the final authority on all aspects of the wedding and reserves the right to overrule decisions concerning the ceremony.