



Weddings

at University Park
United Methodist Church

4024 Caruth Boulevard
Dallas Texas 75225

For Brides and Grooms,

We are happy that you have chosen to celebrate your marriage covenant in the church. The staff and pastors of University Park United Methodist Church look forward to sharing with you the joy and excitement of this momentous event in your lives.

All marriage celebrations at University Park United Methodist Church are first and foremost services of worship. This manual has been prepared to help you, our staff and pastors prepare together a wedding plan and marriage celebration which is both an expression of your love for each other and the worship of God. While many of your questions may be answered best in your conference with the officiating pastor, these pages will describe the official wedding policies of University Park United Methodist Church and the various services that are available to you.

Best wishes and blessings!



university park
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4024 Caruth Boulevard
Dallas, TX 75225
www.upumc.org
214.368.1435

PASTORS

A commissioned or ordained Deacon or Elder or Licensed Local Pastor in the United Methodist Church may officiate at weddings in this church. The officiating minister may invite another ordained minister to assist. Any other person assisting in this service must be approved by the officiating minister.

The Pastoral Staff of University Park United Methodist Church has the authority to make decisions to ensure appropriate and responsible implementation of the marriage celebration liturgy and other items covered by this policy manual. The liturgy must reflect United Methodist theology. It is expected that all elements of the worship service will reflect the wedding liturgy, prayers, and blessings, as set forth in the United Methodist Book of Worship.

The officiating pastor will require a period of mandatory counseling with the bride and groom after scheduling the wedding. This counseling will be in the form of two private sessions. This will provide an opportunity for the officiating pastor to help the bride and groom prepare themselves in such a way that the marriage celebration will represent truly the spiritual union of two persons before God and those who represent God's love.

WEDDING COORDINATOR

The UPUMC Wedding Coordinator will assist the couple with their wedding plans, conduct the rehearsal, and coordinate the marriage celebration. The Wedding Coordinator is the source of information regarding wedding procedures at our church and can answer many questions you may have concerning florists and photographers. The Wedding Coordinator is here to help make your wedding as special and individual as possible and will guide the bride and groom regarding any limitations in reference to church policy. Wedding services, bridal consultants, and similar persons must confer with the Wedding Coordinator regarding all plans.

SCHEDULING THE WEDDING

The first step in scheduling a wedding at the church is to contact the UPUMC Wedding Scheduler to inquire about available dates, at which time a date may be held for members of the congregation on a tentative basis pending availability of the pastor. For non-member inquiries, the Wedding Scheduler will outline the wedding procedures and refer the couple to one of the church's pastors upon receipt of all required paperwork. Non-member weddings cannot be placed on the church calendar more than nine (9) months prior the wedding celebration date.

In all cases, the dates and times for the wedding (rehearsal, marriage celebration, and reception, if held at the church) may not be entered officially on the church calendar until (1) the above conditions have been met; (2) the Wedding Scheduler has received a signed Agreement to the Wedding Policies of University Park United Methodist Church (form is in back of this booklet); and (3) a deposit of one-half of the projected fees has been received. Public announcement that a wedding will take place at the church on a particular date should not be made until the wedding is officially placed on the church calendar. An administrative fee of \$200 will be retained by the church if a scheduled wedding is canceled for any reason.

No more than two (2) weddings may be scheduled on one day, and weddings must be scheduled with a minimum of three (3) hours between them. Weddings will not be held before 10 a.m. or after 8 p.m. Access to the building is limited to TWO (2) HOURS prior to the scheduled time of the marriage celebration. All decorations must be removed from the Sanctuary building immediately following the marriage celebration (approximately one-half hour from the time of the marriage celebration), and the Sanctuary must be left in the condition in which it was found.

When receptions are also held at the church, it is required that the wedding begin no later than 7 p.m. Weddings cannot be scheduled on days when the church is officially closed, other worship services are scheduled, or the facilities are otherwise unavailable because of other church ministries. Such days include Sundays, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week (Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday), Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, and the weekends of Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving.

Once the wedding has been officially scheduled, all changes in rehearsal and marriage celebration dates and times MUST be made through the Wedding Coordinator. The Pastor, Wedding Coordinator, and musicians must also be notified of any change. Please note that rehearsal times are to be set when the wedding is booked and cannot be changed without permission. Rehearsals are to be at 5 or 6 p.m. on the Friday preceding the wedding.

FACILITIES

The Sanctuary has a seating capacity of 685 people. There is a single center aisle, a beautiful pipe organ and a grand piano.

The Chapel is ideal for small weddings that do not need a rehearsal. The seating capacity is 20 people. There is neither an organ nor a piano in the Chapel.

The Bride's Room in the Sanctuary building is available two (2) hours prior to the marriage celebration for the bride and her attendants.

CAKE and PUNCH RECEPTIONS

Receptions may be held in three areas of the church. The rooms and the capacities are as follows:

<u>Room</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
Fellowship Hall	500
Caldwell Room	100
Activity Center	500

No more than one reception may be scheduled for one room on any one day to avoid decorating and usage conflicts.

All receptions must be professionally catered. All dishes, silver, coffee urns, and dish washing services are to be provided by the caterers. Deliveries pertaining to the wedding or wedding reception may be made no more than two (2) hours prior to the scheduled time of the marriage celebration. The caterer must make a deposit of \$100 that will be refunded upon inspection by the Facilities Manager.

Reception areas may be set up by the established caterer by appointment through the Wedding Coordinator. The caterer will be held responsible to leave the room in a clean and orderly condition. Receptions must not last more than two (2) hours following the marriage celebration.

No alcoholic beverages are permitted.

If you are wanting a seated dinner reception, please speak to our Wedding Scheduler about hosting a special event.

MUSIC FOR THE MARRIAGE CELEBRATION

Because the marriage celebration at University Park United Methodist Church is a service of worship that celebrates the marriage covenant in God's grace, music chosen for the marriage celebration must be music appropriate for a service of worship. The music and texts selected must, in general, reflect the praise of God, God's steadfast love in Christ as the foundation of and model for Christian marriage, and the asking of God's presence and blessing; or the words may be drawn from one of many appropriate passages from the Bible.

No recorded music is permitted and electronic amplification (microphones) of vocal music is not permitted.

Favorite love songs, popular hits, etc. are not deemed appropriate for the marriage celebration. Music of this nature is suggested for use at rehearsal dinners and/or receptions.

MUSIC CONSULTATION

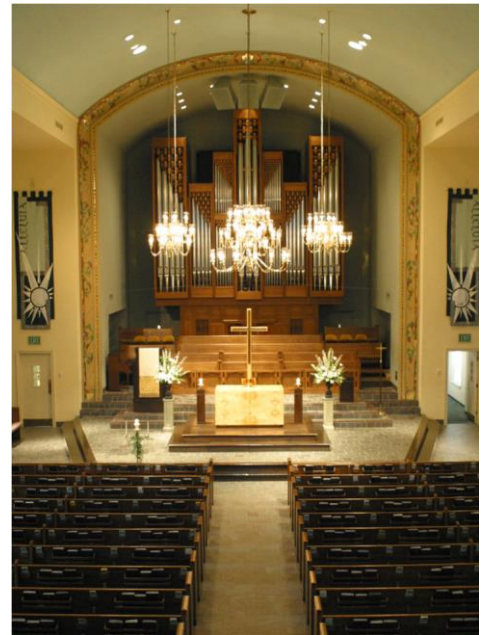
Music for your marriage celebration must be chosen in consultation with the organist at University Park United Methodist Church who will be responsible for music planning. Appointments for the music consultation should be made directly with our **Associate Minister of Worship & Organist** after your marriage celebration has been officially scheduled.

ORGANIST

Our policy is that our staff Organist shall play for all marriage celebrations in the church. In the event of a schedule conflict, the organist will arrange for a qualified substitute. The organist's fee is paid through the church as a part of the other church wedding fees incurred.

VOCAL SOLOISTS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS

The Organist ~~Director of Music Ministries~~ will be happy to arrange for an excellent vocal soloist or recommend professional instrumental soloists or ensembles, if desired. Fees for additional musicians are not a part of the church's wedding fees and must be arranged and paid for directly with the musicians involved. Payment of



musicians' fees is normally done prior to the rehearsal. It must be assumed that the soloist has learned the appropriate selected music as approved through the music consultation and that the teaching of the soloist's music is not regarded as a duty of the Organist.

Soloists should contact the Organist a few days prior to the wedding to schedule a rehearsal period. The soloist should provide the organist with an original copy (no photocopies, please) of the music to be performed in the appropriate key. Transpositions or arrangements of music are not a part of the Organist's responsibilities. Again, prerecorded taped accompaniments and electronic amplification (microphones) of vocal music are not permitted.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

The corporate act of congregational singing is encouraged as a means to heighten the festivity of the marriage celebration and as a way to actively involve all those who attend your marriage celebration. Recommended appropriate hymns for the marriage service from The United Methodist Hymnal include:

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|-----|----------------------------------|
| 89 | Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee |
| 92 | For the Beauty of the Earth |
| 102 | Now Thank We All Our God |
| 139 | Praise to the Lord, the Almighty |
| 384 | Love Divine, All Loves Excelling |
| 408 | The Gift of Love |
| 643 | When Love Is Found |
| 645 | O Perfect Love |

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Modest and reasonable decorations may be placed in the Sanctuary by a responsible florist. No decorations are permitted in the choir loft or on the pipe organ. No decorations are permitted on top of or in front of the Lord's table, the pulpit, or the candle stands. The Lord's table, cross, pulpit, and chancel candles may not be removed from the Sanctuary for marriage celebrations.

The two church-owned brass flower stands may be used at no cost. The chancel candle holders are not to be used as flower stands. The chancel candles should be used for the service and should be lighted prior to the lighting of any other candles. If using candelabra, please provide taper lighters. Aisle candle holders may not be used. Other aisle decorations may be used, provided that they are safely and securely attached to the pews in a manner that does not harm the finish (no nails, tacks, screws, tape or glue). If one flower arrangement is used, it is to be placed at the choir loft level on the right-hand side, opposite the pulpit. If two arrangements are used, they are placed on either side of the Lord's table. Space should be left on the platform in front of the Lord's table for the pastor(s), bride and groom, maid/matron of honor and the best man.

A unity candle, if used, must be provided by the florist, and its specific location in the chancel must be approved by the Wedding Coordinator.

Bows may be placed on the family pews. No tacks, pins, nails, glue, or tape of any kind may be used to fasten any decorations to the furniture (including the pews) or the building.

An aisle cloth may not be used.

Care should be taken to ensure that the pastor, organist, and other musicians have sufficient light to carry out their responsibilities. Please check the level of light to be used with the organist. Please remember that all floral arrangements and candelabra must be placed in a position so that the organist is able to clearly see the center aisle for the seating of parents and the Processional.

The furniture and floor must be fully protected at all times from moisture and candle wax. Candles must be of the dripless variety and must be in candelabra which catch and contain any possible drippings. In addition, all areas under and around the candelabra must be completely protected. The florist will be held financially responsible for any damage done to floors, furniture and the building, and is responsible for the costs involved for the safe removal and/or cleaning of any wax drippings.

Access to the building for decorating is limited to TWO (2) HOURS prior to the scheduled time of the marriage celebration. All decorations must be removed from the Sanctuary building immediately following the marriage celebration (approximately one-half hour from the time of the marriage celebration).

Rose petals (paper or real) are not to be thrown down the aisle or anywhere inside the church building.

Rice, confetti, bird seed, rose petals (paper or real), etc. are not to be thrown inside or outside the church building.

The Sanctuary must be left in the condition in which it was found.

PHOTOGRAPHS

At no time and under no condition shall photographs or pictures be taken from the floor of the Sanctuary while the marriage celebration is in progress, which means once the music has begun. Time exposures may be made from the balcony of the Sanctuary during the marriage celebration provided there is little noise or other distraction.

Pictures may be made in the narthex (vestibule) of the church preceding the marriage celebration but should not interrupt the Processional once it has begun, and as the Recessional is in progress at the end of the marriage celebration. The wedding party may return to the chancel after the marriage celebration. A period of 20 minutes is allowed for photos following the marriage celebration. When time permits, some wedding parties have posed for pictures an hour or so prior to the marriage celebration.

VIDEOS

Videos may be made of the marriage celebration by a professional video service, or a person agreed upon by the Wedding Coordinator. The following guidelines must be observed:

1. Only self-contained video equipment systems that do not require patching into the church's sound system (microphones or speakers) may be used.
2. Recording must be done in available light; additional lighting sources for videography are not permitted.
3. The camera is to be located in the church balcony. The camera position must be stationary; camera operators may not move about the Sanctuary. A second (remote control only) stationary camera location may be made by special arrangement with the Wedding Coordinator.
4. Check microphones to be sure they are working ahead of time. If wireless microphone equipment is used, it is important to check with the Wedding Coordinator to determine that the transmitter frequency does not interfere with the church's sounds system and wireless microphone system. Failure to check frequencies may result in a ruined video recording and malfunction of the church's sound system.
5. All video equipment must be in place and tested no more than 2 hours and no less than 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the marriage celebration. Equipment setup, operation, and packing must be done quietly and discreetly.

MARRIAGE CELEBRATION BULLETINS

A printed bulletin permits the congregation to join in unison prayers, if desired, and also permits the listing of musical selections you have chosen, names of the persons in your wedding party, parents, grandparents, etc. Samples of marriage celebration bulletins and specific arrangements for this service are available upon request. A proof copy must be submitted to University Park United Methodist Church for approval by pastoral and music staff prior to final printing.

THE REHEARSAL

The rehearsal should begin promptly at the scheduled time and proceed in a quiet, dignified, and reverent manner. The rehearsal is an integral part of the marriage celebration preparation and is held in a holy place dedicated to the worship of God.

1. To ensure punctuality, confirm the location and time with all persons needed at the rehearsal; you may wish to provide maps to assist the wedding party.
2. The Wedding Coordinator is in charge of the rehearsal.
3. The rehearsal will require approximately 30 minutes to one hour.
4. All members of the wedding party should be present for the rehearsal.
5. No rehearsal or wedding will be conducted when any member of the wedding party is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

The marriage license is to be given to the pastor immediately prior to the marriage celebration. The marriage celebration may not be performed without a valid marriage license.

PAYMENT OF FEES

A fee schedule is available from the UPUMC Wedding Scheduler listing the established fees which cover a portion of the expenditures for utilities and maintenance related to the use of the building, the music, and for the Wedding Coordinator. One-half of projected fees will be the deposit necessary to officially place the wedding on the church calendar. The balance is due thirty (30) days before the wedding.

HONORARIUM FOR THE PASTOR

It is customary to give an honorarium to the pastor performing the marriage celebration. Couples who desire guidance regarding the appropriate amount of the honorarium may discuss this matter with the Wedding Coordinator or Wedding Scheduler.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERSONAL ITEMS

The church staff will make every reasonable effort to secure personal items brought to the church when specific arrangements have been made. The church cannot do more than this and will not be liable for such items if lost, stolen, or damaged. It is advised that money, jewelry, and other valuables not be left unattended in the bride's room but entrusted to a reliable person of the family's choice, or simply not be brought to the church at all. The wedding party must make arrangements for a family member or other designated person to receive wedding dresses to be delivered to the church, since members of the church staff cannot sign for them. Dresses and other belongings must not be left in the building overnight. All personal items must be removed from the bride's room following the marriage celebration.

MISCELLANEOUS

Smoking and use of tobacco products of any kind in the church building is strictly forbidden. Alcoholic beverages, including champagne toasts in the bride's room, use of alcohol in or near the church facilities and drugs of any kind are strictly forbidden. It is the responsibility of the persons making arrangements for the wedding to see that all members of the wedding party are informed concerning these matters.

Rice, confetti, bird seed, rose petals (paper or real), etc. are not to be thrown inside or outside the church building.

A CHECK-LIST FOR THE CHURCH WEDDING

- Contact the Wedding Scheduler to inquire about available dates and secure a copy of the Wedding Policy manual. For members, a tentative date may be granted at this time.
- If non-member, make appointment with Wedding Scheduler, who will then refer the couple to a pastor of the church.
- Once a pastor's availability and/or recommendation is confirmed, secure official date of wedding (rehearsal, marriage celebration and reception, if at the church) with the Wedding Scheduler by signing the Agreement to the Wedding Policies of University Park United Methodist Church and by making the deposit equal to one-half of the projected fees.
- Make appointment with the Wedding Coordinator.
- Make appointment with the Organist.
- Order invitations.
- Make arrangements with the people you employ to assist you: caterer, florist, photographer, video company, etc.
- Contact all your attendants. Provide clear directions in written form concerning all details such as attire, dates, times, and location of the church.
- Obtain a marriage license. (Licenses are valid in Texas for 31 days.)
- Check final details with Wedding Coordinator.
- Confirm location and times of rehearsal and marriage celebration with all those required to attend (maps help).



IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Church Office: 214-368-1435
www.upumc.org

Rev. Dr. Joe Stobaugh, Senior Pastor
214-368-1435 ext. 105 | jstobaugh@upumc.org

Rev. Emma Williams, Executive Pastor
214-368-1435, Ext. 134 | ewilliams@upumc.org

Rev. Colin Craft, Minister of Youth and Families
214-368-1435, Ext. 147 | ccraft@upumc.org

Mark Pope, Minister of Worship
214-368-1435 ext. 115 | mpope@upumc.org

Christy Baker, Wedding Scheduler
214-368-1435 ext. 116 | cbaker@upumc.org

The pastors and staff of University Park United Methodist Church wish for you every happiness in your life together and sincerely hope that your wedding will be a sacred and beautiful occasion. Please know that you are always welcome here and that you are encouraged to discuss with one of our pastors your participation, as a newly married couple, in the life of this congregation. *(Revised 5/2025)*

