

Tuskawilla Presbyterian Church
Wedding Policy



CONGRATULATIONS!

We are delighted you have chosen to be married at Tuskawilla Presbyterian Church. Your wedding day is one of the most important dates in your lives, and we are pleased to be able to share this happy and holy occasion with you. We are providing this manual to help you in planning a Christian Wedding Service.

In God's wisdom and love, He created a relationship in which a man and a woman complement and fulfill each other - mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually. The wedding should be one in which He is honored and glorified. While dresses, flowers, etc. may add to the beauty and joy of this special day, it is of greatest importance that we focus on the essence of marriage - making vows of love and faithfulness before God and seeking His blessings and presence. It is a service at which we give praise and glory to God.

All weddings must be approved by both the Session and Pastor of Tuskawilla Presbyterian Church.

We ask that all who use the church sanctuary for rehearsals and marriage ceremony do so reverently and in keeping with Presbyterian directives. Reverence shall be expected on the part of all present, and the service shall be under the sole direction of the Pastor, who will not be available during the Advent Season.

May an attitude of thankfulness and joyful reverence prevail at your wedding.

THE OFFICIATING PASTOR

The Pastor of Tuskawilla Presbyterian Church will be in charge of the wedding service, including the rehearsal and will be assisted by TPC's wedding coordinator. In the event that another pastor or pastors are invited to assist or conduct the wedding service, the request must be made to TPC's Pastor for approval.

COUNSELING

Because the officiating pastor is acting as a representative of God and the Church, his/ her duty is to see that everything is done within his/her power to counsel with the couple, seeking to make them mindful of the nature of Christian love and marriage. It is, therefore, required that the couple schedule counseling sessions with the pastor to discuss the aspects of a Christian marriage and assist in the planning of the service. We desire to serve you, not only on the wedding day, but also daily through worship opportunities, education, and the ongoing Christian life of Tuskawilla Presbyterian Church.

THE WEDDING CEREMONY

Since a wedding at Tuskawilla Presbyterian Church is a worship service, generally the church organist is expected to play and should be consulted concerning the wedding music. A list of frequently played and approved music will be provided. If you wish to add a song for your service, please provide the sheet music at least one month prior to your event for approval. A non-church member may be used as a soloist, but the officiating pastor must pre-approve all music. If you do not want to have an organist, other forms of music, such as a string quartet, must be approved by the officiating pastor.

The wedding music should be a service to God and not entertainment for the congregation. All music must be sacred in

nature reflecting the Christian worship service and a pianist/organist is required.

DECORATIONS

If a white aisle runner is used for the bridal procession, it should be provided by your florist, but is discouraged.

Wedding flowers are not to be left in the Sanctuary, unless prior arrangements have been made with the church secretary.

Church decorating is to be done only on the day of the wedding at a scheduled time. This is to assure the presence of the wedding coordinator to avoid conflicts with other activities.

At no time should decorations be placed or attached to the pulpit or lectern. Decorations should never be attached to the church furniture with tacks, nails, tape, etc.

A kneeling bench is available.

Candelabras are not permitted.

RECEPTIONS

The Fellowship Hall is available for the reception. Information on the church's policy, procedures and fees can be obtained by contacting the church office or the wedding coordinator.

PHOTOGRAPHY

We are happy to cooperate in every way to make possible a complete photographic record of your wedding. The following guidelines have been established to maintain the sacredness and dignity of the marriage service:

1. Photographer must remain in the back of the Sanctuary.
2. No flash pictures are to be taken in the sanctuary during the actual ceremony by the photographer or wedding guests.
3. Flash pictures may be taken as the wedding party enters or exits the narthex door.
4. The pastor(s) are available for taking pictures prior to the service and for ½ hour after the ceremony and the signing of the license.

VIDEO

Videotaping allows the couple to have a valuable keepsake, as well as providing an opportunity to view and relive one of the most important and meaningful times in their lives. These guidelines have been established to preserve the atmosphere of worship:

1. Couples wishing to have their service videotaped must have the pastor's approval.
2. The person videotaping must be present at the rehearsal to be familiar with the service and possible camera position.
3. Videotaping areas will be designated by the pastor.
4. No additional lighting is permitted.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE REHEARSAL

The officiating pastor and wedding coordinator will be in charge of the wedding rehearsal. Prior to the rehearsal, the pastor and the couple will discuss procedures. Please be PROMPT in arriving for the rehearsal, which should last 30 - 60 minutes. It is important that all members of the bridal party be present, including the parents of the couple, when possible.

If the pastor and spouse are to be present at the rehearsal dinner, it is customary to extend such invitation well in advance to aid their planning.

WEDDING COORDINATOR

A member of the Worship Committee, currently Lisa Langston, will serve as wedding coordinator. Her duties includes opening and preparing the Sanctuary for the rehearsal, helping with the processional, being present for the florist, opening the Sanctuary two hours prior to the wedding, setting thermostats, providing any needed assistance for the wedding arrangements, closing and cleaning up afterwards. The wedding coordinator's duties do not include the reception. Payment by check is made directly to Tuskawilla Presbyterian Church.

MARRIAGE LICENSE (ORANGE AND SEMINOLE COUNTIES)

1. Both members of the wedding party must be present at the time of the purchase of a license.
The fee must be paid in cash or money order.
2. You must bring proof of identity - driver's license or a certified birth certificate. If not born in the U.S.A., a birth certificate is required. If previously married, you must provide valid proof and date of divorce.
- 3 You must bring your marriage license to the church office at least one week before the wedding. The officiating pastor will be responsible for guidelines and suggestions which are helpful in the planning of your wedding. It is a lovely, sacred and meaningful ceremony, a theologically sound and liturgically beautiful ritual for the beginning of a marriage relationship.

WHAT A BLESSING GOD HAS GIVEN US!