

# WEDDING BOOKLET



Trinity United Methodist Church  
8009 Q Street, Ralston, NE 68127  
402-331-4054 [www.trinityralston.org](http://www.trinityralston.org)

## **1. A Word to the Bride and Groom,**

We are pleased that you have come to Trinity United Methodist Church seeking counsel relative to your wedding. It is a privilege for us to be of service to you.

Your approaching marriage means a great deal of prayerful, careful preparation on your part. We, with you, desire that your wedding be a significant Christian event.

Please read this booklet carefully. It reflects denominational, pastoral, and local church policies which are intended to witness to Christ, be consistent with our total ministry and be helpful to you.

## **2. What Does the United Methodist Church Affirm About Marriage?**

“We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant which is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and woman. We believe that God’s blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social and religious norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage.”

April 2020

### **3. What Does the United Methodist Church Affirm About Divorce and Re-marriage?**

The United Methodist Book of Discipline says: “Where marriage partners, even after thoughtful consideration and counsel, are estranged beyond reconciliation, we recognize divorce as regrettable but recognize the right of divorced persons to remarry.” Discipline, paragraph 71, II D.

### **4. Role of the Pastor**

United Methodist pastors shall “...perform the marriage ceremony after due counsel with the parties involved. The decision to perform the ceremony shall be in accordance with the laws of the state and The United Methodist Church.” Discipline, paragraph 439, S.

The pastor appointed to Trinity UMC is in charge of all weddings conducted in this church. An initial interview must be scheduled with the pastor well in advance of your wedding date. In almost every instance, it will be necessary to schedule a second appointment and frequently additional ones so that pastoral counseling can be made available as well as adequate planning for the service. Therefore, your wedding date must be placed on the church calendar and contact made with the pastor as far in advance as possible. Weddings will not be scheduled on a Sunday.

Other clergy may be invited to participate or to be totally responsible for officiating. In all cases, however, the involvement of clergy other than the Trinity pastor will be arranged only by direct invitation of the Trinity pastor. When clergy from out of town are invited, their travel, lodging, and meal expenses should be paid by the bride and groom or their families.

The pastor may refuse to perform a wedding on several grounds. The pastoral policy is that commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord ought to be evidenced by active church involvement and that a couple’s commitment to the marriage covenant ought to be evidenced by maturity, compatibility and a willingness to enter into premarital counseling. When these basic factors are lacking, or when there is refusal to follow any of the directives of this booklet, or when a valid State of Nebraska Marriage License has not been presented by the day of rehearsal, the pastor may refuse to perform the wedding.

A wedding invitation is to be sent to the officiating pastor.

## **5. Smoking and Alcoholic Beverages**

We ask that you respect the building as well as other persons by observing the rule that there be **NO SMOKING and NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** in any area of the building or on our grounds (including parking lots).

## **6. Trinity Church Building Facilities**

Trinity can provide a lovely air-conditioned sanctuary seating upwards of 175 guests in pews. There is also an overflow area in which more guests can be seated. There are dressing areas on both levels of our education addition plus restrooms on both levels. The upper level provides full kitchen facilities and a fellowship hall (seating capacity of 50) or community center (seating capacity of 150) for receptions.

Trinity Church can provide at no charge a table or stand for guest books and a kneeler. Candles other than for the communion table may be furnished by the bride and groom. Tossing rice, confetti, seed, etc. will not be allowed in the building or on the grounds. Food and beverages other than water will not be allowed in the dressing rooms.

## **7. Custodial Services**

For all weddings and receptions, it will be necessary to employ the services of our church's custodian. This person will be responsible for readying the church areas to be used and returning the areas to readiness for normal use after the wedding. The custodian will work with the reception hostess to set up and take down reception area furniture as well as cleaning before and after.

## **8. Decorations in the Sanctuary**

Any decorating must be done with two primary considerations: 1) decorations must not detract from the central sanctuary symbols and 2) decorations must not be such that will damage or soil church furnishings or floors.

Arrangements must be made to remove all decorations as soon as possible after the wedding.

## **9. May We Be Married at a Site Other Than the Church Building?**

Locations other than the church building may be selected only with the approval of the pastor and the permission of the owner. Any location must be conducive to Christian worship. Outdoor locations may be planned only when alternative indoor sites are also planned in case of inclement weather.

## **10. Order for the Service of Marriage**

The wedding service we will plan and conduct is a service of Christian worship. We gather to offer praise and thanksgiving to God and to ask God's blessing upon your life together. The object of our worship is first and always God.

The United Methodist Church does not insist upon a particular order of service. Your pastor will review with you the basic service. Additions, deletions and changes are possible as long as they are approved by the pastor.

## **11. Music**

Music can play a significant role in a marriage service, be it a large, formal wedding or a small, intimate one. We insist that the music selected, both instrumental and vocal, be that which is appropriate to Christian worship. The pastor and musicians must approve and will gladly assist in the selection of music. Instrumental music, hymns sung by the congregation and selections for soloist or groups may be included in the service as well as prelude, processional, and postlude.

Trinity UMC will provide a clavino. You may wish to provide your own musicians or use a church musician. All music must be acceptable to the pastor. There will be a fee imposed for any musicians provided by the church. The church musicians shall be sent a wedding invitation.

## **12. Audio/Visual**

A sound technician is required in order to keep the sound level adjusted for the pastor, musicians and instruments so that your guests can enjoy the full experience of your ceremony. If you have CD's or DVD's, they must be provided to the technician at least a week prior to the service.

### **13. Pictures**

Permission will be granted the photographer of your choice to take pictures of your wedding. Posed pictures of the wedding party may be taken in the sanctuary prior to or following the ceremony. Any sanctuary pictures taken before the ceremony should be completed 45 minutes before service time.

Floodlight or flash pictures are not permitted during the service. Video-recording the service from a stationary camera is permissible.

### **14. Rehearsal**

Whenever the wedding party exceeds the bride and groom plus witnesses, it will be necessary to schedule a rehearsal. This will ensure the comfort and relaxed participation of both wedding party and guests. The entire wedding party, including children, acolytes, musicians, ushers and parents should attend the rehearsal. Rehearsals should be scheduled as near to the date of the wedding as possible. They normally require about one hour.

### **15. Receptions at the Church Building**

Receptions may be scheduled for the church's Fellowship Hall (seating capacity of 50) or Community Center (seating capacity of 150). You will be responsible for providing all food, plates, cups, glasses, eating utensils, napkins, and decorations. Also persons to cut and serve cake and to serve punch and coffee.

A commercial kitchen is available if needed for the preparation of a meal. You will also be responsible for providing persons to prepare and serve the meal.

The church custodian will do all of the room cleaning and furniture set-up and take-down according to your wishes.

### **16. Persons you will need to contact:**

Pastor: Tessa Zehring	Phone: 402-469-5734
Facility Reservations: Vicky Segers	Phone: 402-331-4054
Music Leader: Matt Hindley	Phone: 402-889-2416
Sound Technician: Jason Hindley	Phone: 402-650-2608

**Summary of Wedding Fees (includes custodial):**

	<b><u>Active** Members</u></b>	<b><u>Non-Active or Non-Members</u></b>
Sanctuary + dressing rooms	\$ 50.00	\$250.00
Sound Technician (required)	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Pastor's Honorarium	\$200.00	\$250.00
Instrumentalist	\$100.00	\$100.00

**Summary of Reception Fees (includes custodial):**

	<b><u>Active** Members</u></b>	<b><u>Non-Active or Non-Members</u></b>
Community Center	\$ 75.00	\$400.00
Fellowship Hall	\$ 25.00	\$125.00
Reception Set-up	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Kitchen	\$ 25.00	\$125.00
Deposit	-0-	\$100.00 (refundable)

*\*\*Active Members are those members who worship at least monthly and/or are actively involved in church ministries for at least six months prior to reserving the wedding date. Fees are based on membership status at the time of reservation.*

**All fees must be received in the church office no later than one week prior to the wedding day. Please make your checks payable to Trinity UMC.**

