

## PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

- 1) First Church of Christ-Center Church on the Green New Haven welcomes the use of our sanctuary to all loving couples who choose to
  - a) Celebrate their wedding in the Christian tradition. (Secular ceremonies are allowed however we are a Christian church and will not remove any trappings or displays that indicate such.)
  - b) Meet the legal requirements for marriage in the State of Connecticut. (Yes, we perform services for same-gender couples, any religious background or no religious affiliation whatsoever.)
- 2) The minister of the church will officiate at all weddings.
  - a) If the bride or groom desires to invite a clergyperson, friend or relative to participate in the service, arrangements should be made through the Church's minister, who will extend the invitation to the guest minister. Minister fees will be adjusted accordingly at the discretion of the minister of the church.
- 3) In order for the wedding ceremony to go smoothly, it is important to meet with the pastor for some frank discussion. Planning the service takes time and preparation, and more than one meeting may be necessary. Discussion usually includes topics such as family of origin, the handling of finances and conflict, and hopes for the future. The pastor will ask you questions such as... "In an age when people have the freedom to live together, why do you want to get married?" or "What does marriage mean to you?"
- 4) If a rehearsal is needed, it can be scheduled at any time prior to the ceremony - usually the evening before the wedding. Rehearsals usually take one hour.
- 5) The couple is required by law to obtain a marriage license in the City of New Haven. The couple is responsible for getting their blood test and the license before the date of the wedding. Take the results of the pre-marital blood test to the Office of Vital Statistics, 165 Church Street, Room 154, New Haven. The current cost of a license is \$30.00 and is valid for 65 days.
- 6) Photographers are welcome in the church, though the conditions and rules are at the discretion of the minister. Please have your photographer speak with the minister before the ceremony begins.
- 7) If you will be using a florist, please inform them that flowers must be at the church at least one hour before the ceremony. The church does not have a white aisle runner. If one is desired, arrangements should be made with the florist. The aisle runner should be at least 75 feet long. (The aisle is carpeted so an aisle runner is not necessary.)
- 8) It is expected that the church organist will provide the music for the wedding service. The minister will put the bride and groom in contact him/her to discuss thoroughly with him/her the wedding music and marches.
  - a) Piano may be used instead of organ for ceremony.
  - b) Guest organist/pianist are allowed if approved by the church organist. Some fees may still apply.
- 9) The Sanctuary may not be decorated except with flowers and bows on the pews, unless cleared in advance with the pastor.
- 10) Following the ceremony, guests are asked not to throw rice or confetti outside the church building. Bird seed or rose petals are permissible.
- 11) Due to the parking ban in downtown New Haven during weeknight (Mon.-Fri.) rush hour (4-6 p.m.), the police request that all weddings on weeknights occur after 6:30 p.m.

## SCHEDULE OF WEDDING FEES

Service	Non member	Member
Sanctuary	\$750	
Minister	350	
Organist	350	300
Coordinator/Custodian	150	150
Heating Surcharge (October 15 <sup>th</sup> – April 15 <sup>th</sup> )	200	
<b>Totals</b>	\$1600 (\$1800)	\$450

For weddings held away from the church, the honorarium for the minister is \$400.

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is required to hold your wedding date. The balance is due two weeks before the ceremony.

Please make your check payable to “First Church of Christ in New Haven” or, if the minister directs you, individual checks can be made out to the appropriate people.

Please bring the marriage license to the rehearsal.

## THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN NEW HAVEN

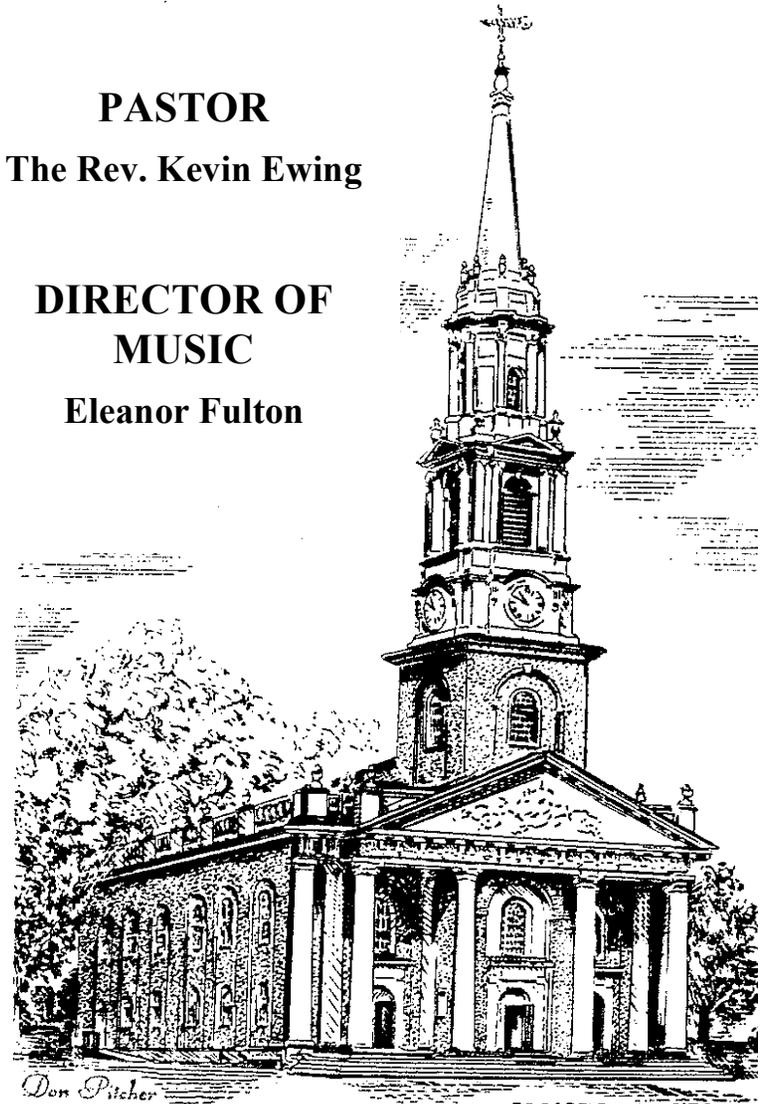
### Wedding Policies

#### PASTOR

The Rev. Kevin Ewing

#### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Eleanor Fulton



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