



Coon Rapids United Methodist Church

Getting Married?



Dear Bride and Groom:

We are delighted to share our ministries with you through the event of your wedding. Weddings at Coon Rapids United Methodist Church (CRUMC) are Christian worship services, with a focus upon God and you and your partner as you express your vows to each other before God. This can be done well in many styles of wedding, whether it is a service that is very simple and small or large and more complex. Matters of music, ritual, attendants, and other elaborations will be planned by you and your partner in consultation with your Pastor and the Wedding Coordinator. Please refer to this handbook as you plan each stage of your wedding.

Of course, preparation for marriage involves much more than the details of the ceremony. Your Pastor will also be counseling and praying with you in order that you have every advantage possible in forming a strong, lasting, and Christ-centered marriage.

May you love and cherish each other throughout your lives together.

How to Schedule a Wedding at CRUMC

1. Complete the Wedding Checklist. If your answer to all questions is YES, then proceed to step 2
2. Contact our Wedding Coordinator (wedding@coonrapidsumc.org, or 763 755-6990) to discuss the availability of the building, Pastor, and other people involved in accommodating your requested wedding date. If everything checks out, she will direct you to Step 3.
3. Complete the “Request to Schedule a Wedding at Coon Rapids United Methodist Church.” Submit the completed form (both pages, including times for the rehearsal and wedding ceremony) and deposit to the church office. She will review the request, confirm the request with the Pastor and church calendar, and then contact you to confirm that your wedding is booked. Weddings are not scheduled until these three steps are completed.

Once your wedding has been scheduled, your Pastor will contact you to initiate the premarital counseling process and the Wedding Coordinator will contact you to arrange a meeting to discuss the details of your wedding.

Request to Schedule a Wedding at CRUMC

Wedding Date: _____ Day: _____ Time*: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Day: _____ Time: _____

* Saturday wedding ceremonies must begin by 3:30 pm, be complete by 4:30 pm, and the building (including the gym) must be clean and vacated by 5:30pm (the multipurpose room must be empty and clean by 4:30pm).

Have you completed the Wedding Checklist? (Please attach completed checklist)

Bride's Name: _____
Nickname: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Home Phone: _____ Business Phone _____
Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail _____
Do you currently worship with or belong to a church? If so, where? _____

Bride's Parents Name: _____

Groom's Name: _____ Nickname: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Home Phone: _____ Business Phone _____
Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail _____
Do you currently worship with or belong to a church? If so, where? _____

Groom's Parents Name: _____

Do you prefer a particular CRUMC Pastor to officiate at your wedding?: _____

Are there any other clergy persons you would like to participate?: _____

Do you prefer a particular Wedding Coordinator to help with your wedding?: _____

Are you or any of your parents a member of this church? No Yes (explain)_____

How many people do you expect to attend your wedding ceremony? _____

Location of wedding: CRUMC Sanctuary (max 400) CRUMC Chapel (max 30)

Are you planning on hosting your reception at the church?: No Yes

If so, how many guests are you expecting at the reception (max 200)? _____

What, if anything, is unique about your ceremony that you'd like to discuss at this time?

Why did you decide to request a wedding at CRUMC?

*** Please remember that your wedding date is not booked until you have ***
received confirmation of that from the Wedding Coordinator.

God bless you in this important time of preparation for your marriage!

Office Use Only

Deposit made: \$_____ Date:_____ Pay method:_____

CRUMC Sanctuary Wedding Fee Planning

Wedding Services: \$1000.00

These services and individuals are required to perform a wedding service held in the sanctuary at Coon Rapids United Methodist Church.

- **Pastor**
- **Wedding Coordinator**
- **Audio-Visual Technician**
- **Custodians**
- **Prepare Premarital Inventory**

Chapel Wedding Services: \$430.00

These services and individuals are required to perform a wedding service held in the chapel at Coon Rapids United Methodist Church.

- **Pastor**
- **Prepare Premarital Inventory**

Optional Services Provided by CRUMC

- Pianist/Organist** **\$150.00**
- Vocalist(s)** **\$100.00 per person**
- Reception Hall & Custodian** **\$500.00**
- Services of the Wedding Coordinator for reception at the church - \$100.00**

Wedding Service \$ _____

Additional Services \$ _____

(-) \$200 Deposit \$ _____ (\$100 nonrefundable*)

Balance Due \$ _____ (Due by two weeks prior to the wedding)

**\$100 of the deposit will be refunded if cancellation is made prior to one month before the wedding.*

Wedding Guidelines

Please observe the following guidelines when planning your wedding:

Scripture

Weddings are services of Christian worship. All wedding ceremonies will include the reading of at least one Bible passage that is related to the wedding ceremony (most couples choose two). Sample Bible passages are included at the back of this handbook.

Message

All wedding ceremonies will include a brief reflection (sermon) on the bible passage. These messages are personalized for the bride and groom and usually last about 5-7 minutes.

Vows

All wedding ceremonies will include an exchange of vows between the bride and groom. While most couples choose to use the traditional marriage vows (included in this handbook), others choose to write their own vows. All vows should acknowledge that the covenant is made before God. The Pastor must approve all vows and the wedding program no later than one week prior to the wedding ceremony and before the wedding programs are printed.

Premarital Counseling

All couples are required to complete a Premarital Inventory, which allows the Pastor to structure a conversation with the couple regarding their prospective marriage. This is NOT a test to determine whether you may be married. Rather, its purpose is to help you and the Pastor better understand the expectations, strengths, and growth areas you bring to the marriage. The survey is normally taken online. If you do not have access to a computer, arrangements can be made to use a computer at the church. After the inventory is tabulated, the Pastor will contact you to schedule a counseling meeting. Depending on the outcome of this meeting, some couples choose to schedule additional sessions to strengthen their communication and conflict resolution skills, resolve money issues, and the like, but these additional sessions are not required.

Wedding Coordinator

The Wedding Coordinator will arrange the details at our church and will assist you and answer any questions prior to your wedding. It is the policy of the church that all couples use our Wedding Coordinator. The Wedding Coordinator will coordinate contacts with CRUMC

musicians, CRUMC Audio-Visual Technicians, and CRUMC custodians as well as help you think through the details of your ceremony. The Coordinator will be present at the rehearsal and assist the Pastor. On the day of the wedding, the Coordinator will unlock/lock the church doors and be available to assist you with building-related issues or questions regarding the ceremony. Please understand that the Wedding Coordinator is not a Wedding Planner and is not available to the same extent.

Music

The marriage service is a Christian worship service and the music should be chosen carefully with this in mind. The church offers the optional services of the staff pianists/organists who are highly skilled professional musicians. The pianists/organists are available to make suggestions and assist in the selection of service music. If desired, the congregation may be invited to join in the singing of hymns or praise songs. You may also choose to bring your own musicians. Please remember that all of the musicians will need sufficient time to practice the wedding music. The Pastor and the Wedding Coordinator must approve all music. If having a live soloist and/or accompanist is not possible, pre-recorded taped/cd music may also be used. The fees for the pianist/organist include playing at the rehearsal, playing the prelude (15-20 minutes before the ceremony), playing during the ceremony itself, and playing the postlude (5-10 minutes following the recessional).

Video/Power Point

We do not provide services for the display of video or photo slide shows in the sanctuary, either before, during, or after the wedding ceremony. Couples are encouraged to incorporate these elements, if desired, into their reception plans (we do not provide Audio-Visual equipment or operators for receptions held at CRUMC).

Marriage License

Each couple is responsible for obtaining their wedding license prior to the wedding ceremony. There may be a delay between the date of application and your receipt of the license, so don't put this off! The ceremony cannot be performed without the license and must be signed by the Pastor and their witnesses on the day of wedding. Please bring your marriage license to the rehearsal and give to the Wedding Coordinator to complete.

Wedding Dates

Selecting a date for your wedding involves many people. Dates must be approved by the Pastor and the Wedding Coordinator and coordinated with musicians, Audio-Visual Technicians, and other events on the church calendar. Weddings are not normally scheduled during holiday weekends or on Sundays and no more than one wedding will be scheduled per day. Weddings are not scheduled during the two weeks prior to Christmas, the two weeks prior to Easter, or the last two weeks of July. Churches, musicians, and reception halls are often booked more than a year in advance. In addition, many Pastors must limit the number of weddings they perform each month in order to meet the many other needs of the congregation and community. Please contact us earlier rather than later in the process to get the date you're hoping for.

Wedding Rehearsal & Sanctuary Decorating

It is critical that a rehearsal be held prior to the wedding ceremony. Rehearsals are normally held on Friday evening, or the evening before the wedding day. Rehearsals typically last one hour (6-7pm is a typical time). The Pastor, Wedding Coordinator, Audio-Visual Technician, and all musicians (if possible) should be present for the rehearsal. All those in the wedding party as well as others participating in the ceremony (readers, parents, etc) are expected to attend. On the evening of the rehearsal, you will have access to the Sanctuary for a maximum of two hours from the agreed upon starting time. Half of that time will be required for the rehearsal (one hour) and half for sanctuary decorating (one hour). The agreed upon rehearsal time is the time the rehearsal will begin- please make arrangements with the Wedding Coordinator if you would like to use your decorating time prior to the rehearsal rather than after it.

Wedding Time & Building Access

There may well be other people or groups using the church building prior to and following your wedding. For this reason, on the day of your wedding you may have access to the church building no more than four hours prior to the time of the wedding. If you are having flowers delivered or are coordinating with hairdressers, photographers, etc, please be clear about this time constraint. Saturday wedding ceremonies must be complete by 4:30 pm and the building (including the gym) must be clean and vacated by 5:30pm (the multipurpose room must be empty and clean by 4:30pm). For this reason, no Saturday wedding will be scheduled with a

starting time of later than 3:30 pm. Our church operates a daycare from 6am to 6pm on weekdays. Therefore, wedding ceremonies to be held on weekday evenings may begin no earlier than 7pm.

Wedding Receptions at CRUMC

The church offers a choice of two rooms that are suitable for receptions (only one room per reception). While the church provides tables and chairs suitable to those rooms, we do not provide catering, dishes, utensils, or access to kitchen appliances such as the dishwasher, stove, and freezer/refrigerator. Saturday receptions in the Multipurpose Room (max 75) must be complete and the room clean and vacated by 4:30pm. Saturday receptions in the gym (Wesley Hall, max 200) must be complete and the building clean and vacated by 5:30pm. Receptions held on weekday evenings must be complete and the room clean and vacated within four hours from the beginning of the wedding ceremony. Many couples invite the Pastor to join them at the wedding reception. Generally, while the Pastors appreciate the thoughtfulness of your invitation, they will usually decline due to other demands on their time (family, preparation for the Sunday service, etc.).

Communion

Some couples choose to celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion during their ceremony. The United Methodist Church opens Holy Communion to all in the congregation. If you desire to do so, please allow sufficient time in your ceremony for all guests to participate.

Alcohol/Drugs

No alcoholic beverages are permitted on the church property (before, during, or after the ceremony). This policy includes the grounds and parking lot outside of the church building. It will be the responsibility of the bride and groom to convey this information to the wedding party and all wedding guests. No rehearsal or wedding will be conducted if any member of the wedding party is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.

Tobacco

There is no smoking or chewing tobacco in the building, including the bathrooms.

Food/Beverages

Food/beverages are allowed in the dressing rooms and Wesley Hall or the Multipurpose Room for receptions. Food and beverages are not allowed in the sanctuary, even during

rehearsals.

Rice/Birdseed/Bubbles

Rice, birdseed, bubbles, and the like may be used outside of the building only and must be cleaned up before leaving the church.

Flower Petals

Real flower petals may not be dropped indoors because they stain the carpet. However, you may use artificial flower petals.

Decorations

CRUMC offers the following furniture/decorations: Two brass candelabras, a kneeling bench, an altar, and a unity stand. Two pedestals are provided in sanctuary for greenery or floral arrangements. Any additional decorating requests may be made with the Wedding Coordinator. Plants placed on the floor or on the flower stands must be placed on a protective covering which will ensure no damage done by the water or soil. Decorations on the pews should be used with extreme care so as not to mar or mark the furnishings. Please use the 3M Command Adhesive hooks for hanging pew bows, flowers etc. No tacks, pins, nails, glue or tape may be used to fasten any decorations to the furniture or building. Simple altar decorations such as a unity candle, memory candle, or small floral arrangement are acceptable, but please remember that the altar is sacred.

Church Banners

Our sanctuary is normally decorated with colors (banners) appropriate to the church season (green, purple, white, red, gold). These colors, as well as the bible, cross, and altar, will remain in place during the ceremony.

Flowers

If fresh flowers or plants are used, you may choose to take them with you after the ceremony or leave them in the church for the Sunday service. Floral deliveries may be made no earlier than four hours prior to the start of the wedding ceremony. Please don't assume that the church building will be unlocked prior to this.

Cleaning

The family is expected to remove all materials used for decorating and any personal belongings that are used in the sanctuary or chapel and dressing rooms (i.e. cellophane, flower

boxes, food, etc.) before leaving the church. Remember, there may be others using the church later that day and on Sunday mornings.

Photography

If there is a photographer and videographer, their work should be coordinated through the Wedding Coordinator. The immediate area where the ceremony will be performed is sacred. Therefore, photographer/videographer is never to enter the immediate circle of the ceremony and should try to limit his or her movement and visibility (stationary cameras may be placed to the side of the chancel prior to the wedding).

Weapons

Weapons of any kind, including firearms, are prohibited from the church building and grounds.

Pets

Pets, with the exception of seeing-eye dogs, may not be brought on the church property or used in the wedding ceremony.

Typical CRUMC Wedding Service

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

GREETING

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING(S)

(If there is more than one reading, music may come between the readings.)

SERMON

PRAYER

MARRIAGE VOWS

BLESSING OF RINGS

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE

LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE

(Music is usually included here)

BLESSING OF MARRIAGE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(This can be spoken or sung by a soloist)

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

RECESSIONAL

Sample Bible Readings for Weddings

Genesis 1:26-28,31a	The creation of man/woman
Song of Solomon 2:10-14, 16a;8:6-7	Love is strong as death
Isaiah 43:1-7	You are precious in God's eyes
Isaiah 55:10-13	You shall go out in joy
Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Rejoice in the Lord
Isaiah 63:7-9	The steadfast love of the Lord
Romans 12:1-2,9-18	The life of a Christian
1 Corinthians 13	The greatest of these is Love
2 Corinthians 5:14-17	In Christ we are a new creation
Ephesians 2:4-10	God's love for us
Ephesians 4:1-6	Called to the one hope
Ephesians 4:25-5:2	Members one of another
Philippians 2:1-2	The Christ-like spirit
Philippians 4:4-9	Rejoice in the Lord
Colossians 3:12-17	Live in love and thanksgiving
1 John 3:18-24	Love one another
1 John 4:7-16	God is love
Revelation 19:1,5-9a	The wedding feast of the Lamb
Mathew 5:1-10	The Beatitudes
Matthew 7:21,24-27	A house built upon a rock
Matthew 22:35-40	Love, the greatest command
Mark 2:18-22	Joy in Christ as at a wedding
Mark 10:42-45	True greatness
John 2:1-11	The marriage feast
John 15:9-17	Remain in Christ's love

Standard Wedding Declaration and Vows

Declaration of Intention

Groom and **Bride**, I ask you now, in the presence of God and these people, to declare your intention to enter into union with one another, through the grace of Jesus Christ, who calls you into union with himself, as acknowledged in your baptism.

Bride, will you have **Groom** to be your husband, to live together in holy marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to him, as long as you both shall live?

Bride: I will.

Groom, will you have **Bride** to be your wife, to live together in holy marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others, be faithful to her, as long as you both shall live?

Groom: I will.

Marriage Vows

Groom: In the name of God, I, **Groom**, take you, **Bride**, to be my wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Bride: In the name of God, I, **Bride**, take you, **Groom**, to be my husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.