

Rules for Building Use for Weddings

The primary consideration for the use of Linwood United Church (LUC) for a wedding is RESPECT ~ Respect for the sanctity of the Church, for the sanctity of Marriage, and for the building and its facilities.

The marriage of two persons is a very serious and important step. All marriages are governed by the standards of the Church. Church marriages in particular must reflect an “above average” standard.

The LUC Session, Building and Finance Committee, congregation, pastor, etc. strongly suggest the following recommendations be adhered to when having and participating in a wedding, renewal of vows or civil union at LUC, its sanctuary, Wesley Hall or any of its other rooms or area(s):

- Music ~ Music used at the church and its facilities before, during or after the ceremony should not be of an overtly suggestive nature. Music containing profanity is not allowed.
- Dress ~ Appropriate dress for the participants and guests is requested. Cutoffs, sweat-suits, halter-tops, etc., are not generally considered appropriate dress for a church wedding.
- Vows ~ Although we encourage people to express their feelings for each other, we do ask that appropriate language be used in doing so in a church wedding.
- General Matters ~ The date and time for the rehearsal and the wedding should be set as early as possible. The behavior of the wedding party and guests shall be governed by good taste and decorum appropriate to the LUC building and grounds and to the preparation for the participation in a worship service. (See “Rules for Building Use”.) The bride and groom have the responsibility to make this expectation known to the people who will be involved.
- Fees for using the LUC sanctuary and/or other facilities are listed on the Building Use form.
- Arrangements for officiating the ceremony by the LUC pastor needs to be made directly with the pastor. The LUC pastor will require consultation with the prospective bride and groom. An honorarium should be offered to the pastor as a token of appreciation. The pastor, at their discretion, may determine a minimum fee. IF the LUC pastor is not officiating the ceremony, the couple’s desired officiant must be approved by the LUC Session (governing body).
- The services of the Church Musician(s) may also be employed. Fees for their services are negotiated directly with them.
- A fee is required for custodial services appropriate to the time and size of the wedding (listed on the Building Use form), or the family may make their own arrangements for set-up and clean-up or other services in consultation with the church office. LUC requests that rice, birdseed, or confetti not be used on church property.

- Since the wedding is a religious ceremony, decorations shall be kept in good taste befitting a house of worship. No tape or nails may be used to adhere decorations to walls, pews or posts.
- Furnishings in the Sanctuary, Wesley Hall, and other areas of the church are arranged for a purpose. In order to move items, such as plant stands, baptismal font, pulpit, etc. permission must be received in advance from the LUC Session. Furnishings must be returned to the LUC set up when the event is over.
- The taking of photographs or videotaping during a wedding is an individual concern. However, LUC strongly recommends having a professional or other “official” for this purpose. The key concern involved is that the taking of pictures or videotaping not intrude upon or distract from the worship setting and the seriousness of the occasion.
- The church wedding is a special occasion. It is a religious ceremony witnessed by many relatives and friends. To preserve the sanctity of the occasion the church does not permit alcoholic beverages to be served or consumed in connection with any rehearsal, wedding or reception on church property. The only exception to this rule is the sharing of a toast by the bride and groom at the reception.