

**WEDDING GUIDELINES**  
for  
**Violetteville**  
**United Methodist Church**

Coolidge & Joh Avenues □ Baltimore, MD 21229  
Church 410-525-3191

**Rev. Ann P. Adams**  
Pastor



**VIOLETVILLE**  
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**The Wedding Ceremony**

God designed marriage for human friendship, for the procreation and upbringing of children, for human sexuality as the highest expression of intimacy and self-giving love, and for vital family life. It is a sacred act whereby God enters into a new relationship of love, companionship, and devotion with you and your mate. In marriage, promises are given, commitments are made, blessings are pronounced, and a new family unit is formed. We believe that only by God's mercy and love, and the Lordship of Jesus Christ, will it succeed. We trust that you will seek as husband and wife to live in the spirit and the love of Jesus Christ.

We, therefore, believe that the wedding ceremony is first and foremost a service of worship. What more appropriate way to begin your life together than in God's presence and with prayers for his blessing upon you, upon your families, and your friends. Scriptures will be read that speak about the meaning of Christian marriage. Music will be selected generally because of its religious themes and appropriateness for worship. Your lives and relationship will be strengthened as you open yourselves to God's presence and blessing.

Second, the wedding ceremony is uniquely yours. The service may include traditional elements that have been used for hundred of years, like the charges, the presenting of the bride, the exchange of vows and rings, and the pronouncement. But we encourage you to "personalize" your ceremony as you consider all its elements. For example, you might consider writing your own vows or involving family members in a variety of ways. Early in the premarital sessions, the minister, will give you a copy of the ceremony she uses along with other suggestions for making it uniquely personal.

No wedding will be considered on short notice.

## **The Minister's Role**

The role of the minister in your wedding is two-fold. First, the minister will guide you through a series of counseling sessions to a greater awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of your relationship. Involvement in pre-marital counseling is expected of all couples. The nature, number and the time commitment of these sessions will be discussed at the initial conference between you and the minister. You are expected to attend the Sunday worship service at church during your counseling sessions.

These sessions will be focus on important areas of marriage and family life, such as: communication, role expectations, finances and other practical aspects of married life, child-rearing, in-law relations, sexuality, religion, and issues unique to your relationship with each other. We encourage your openness, your honesty, your questions, your willingness to grow. We value this opportunity to get to know you better and to assist you in laying a firm foundation for life-long commitment to each other.

Second, the minister will assist you with the planning of the wedding. From the initial conference to wedding day, the minister makes herself available to provide ideas, resources, and support in order to fulfill your expectations and wishes for the service. Some time of each pre-marital session will be spent discussing every phase and detail of preparation. Other personnel of our church, such as our organist, soloists (if desired), the wedding coordinator, the secretarial staff, etc., will be available to help you.

## **The Organist and Musicians**

You are responsible for contracting the Church organist (if needed) (name and phone number listed under personnel) as soon as possible after the initial conference with the minister. the date and time of the wedding and the rehearsal. The church organist will discuss with you: organist fees, musical selections (instrumental and/or vocal), other rehearsal times in addition to the wedding rehearsal (if needed). All music and activities must be cleared through the minister. Other music notes: we generally require that music be appropriate for service of worship and consistent with Christian values and themes; possible exceptions are to be discussed with the minister and the

organist. The organist and/or minister will assist you in the selection of music. The use of outside soloists is to be discussed with the organist as well as arrangements made for rehearsals. Soloists set their own fees. Our church organist plays for all weddings. In the event he is unavailable, the minister will supply a competent organist.

### **Other Considerations:**

#### **Wedding Coordinator**

The minister will contract the wedding coordinator as soon as possible after the initial conference. The wedding coordinator will assist you in helping with preparing the sanctuary for the wedding, as well as assisting in many other details leading up to the wedding. Please communicate to her any special arrangements as related to flowers, candles/candelabra (supplied by the church), pew decorations, guest register stand, Communion, etc. The wedding coordinator will be present for the rehearsal as well as the wedding.

#### **Flowers:**

We recommend that you handle your flower arrangements with the florist of your choice. We suggest two medium-sized bouquets to be placed on the altar on either side of the cross, in addition to flowers for the wedding party and family members.

#### **Photography:**

The professional code of ethics for church weddings prepared by the Professional Photographers of America recognizes that a wedding is a service of divine worship and should not be interrupted by picture taking. The only exceptions might be shots of the processional and the recessional. We suggest that your photographer visit the church in advance of the wedding in order to familiarize himself/herself with the facilities and, if necessary, to speak with the minister about special arrangements.

We allow video taping of the ceremony, provided the camera is set up on a tripod and placed in the rear of the church. We wish to avoid any movement which would distract the flow of the ceremony or take away from you as the center of attention. Please do not use any video cameras with bright lights.

### **Rice, Confetti, or Birdseed:**

No rice, confetti, or birdseed is permitted on the premises, and you should so notify your guests accordingly.

### **Rehearsal:**

We recommend that a rehearsal be scheduled in order to prepare you and the members of the wedding party for the ceremony. If it's a weekend wedding, we normally have the rehearsal on Friday evening. All members of the wedding party (best man, maid/matron of honor, ushers, bridesmaids, flower girl, ring bearer, father of the bride, soloists/musicians, etc.) are expected to be present at the rehearsal, which starts promptly at the appointed hour. The minister will handle the details and organization of the ceremony, assisted by the wedding coordinator.

### **Marriage License:**

**Since Violetville UMC is located in Baltimore City, you must obtain your marriage license at the Baltimore City Court House.**  
(See information attached on marriage licenses.)

Please give the marriage license to the minister at least five days prior to the wedding date.

Also, please give the checks for the wedding fees to the minister on the night of the rehearsal.

Please give the rings to the minister at least 5 days prior to the wedding. They will be secured in a fire-proof file prior to the wedding.

## **WEDDING FEES**

### **Members:**

Sanctuary - No Fee  
Fellowship Hall - No Fee  
Minister - donation is suggested  
Organist - to be discussed with the Organist  
Wedding Coordinator \$50.00  
Custodian \$45.00 (cleaning of the sanctuary)  
\$90.00 (cleaning the sanctuary and hall)

### **Non-Members:**

**A non-refundable \$100 deposit is to be paid to the church (check should be written to Violetville UMC in order to secure the wedding date on the calendar.**

Sanctuary - \$150.00 (inclusive of deposit)  
Fellowship Hall - \$150.00 (inclusive of deposit)  
Minister - to be discussed with the Minister  
Organist - to be discussed with the Organist  
Wedding Coordinator \$50.00 (minimum)  
Custodian \$45.00  
\$90.00 (cleaning the sanctuary and hall)

### **Other fees: (Optional)**

Preparation of Wedding Bulletin (you provide covers)- \$50.00

**NOTE:** All fees are to be paid on the night of the rehearsal.

We request separate checks, written to:

- 1) Minister; 2) Organist; 3) Custodian; 4) Wedding Coordinator;
- 5) Administrative Secretary (wedding bulletin)

*Fees mentioned above are to be included in the check to Violetville United Methodist Church.*

## **MARRIAGE LICENSE--Details for Baltimore City**

*Please note that the information below applies only to Baltimore City, although other cities may have similar rules.*

Marriage license applied for at the Baltimore City Court House can only be used in Baltimore City.

The following information is needed: **Names**, Addresses, Ages, Birth Places, State or Country, SS # and Martial Status.

If divorced or widowed - you must bring your divorce decree or a death certificate when applying.

If 21 and over no proof of age.

18 is the legal age without parental consent in Maryland.

A blood test is not required in Maryland.

1 person of the party to be married can apply for the license; **this must be done in person.**

The license is available the same day you apply for it, however, you must wait 2 days before you can use it. Example: If you are getting married on Saturday, Nov. 12, you may apply for the license as late as Thursday, Nov. 10 (I would allow three days prior just to be safe).

Once issued, it is valid for 6 months.

Fee - **\$35.00 - CASH**