

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Eliot, Maine

THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN COMPILED TO
ASSIST YOU IN PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

The First Congregational Church of Eliot wants to render the best possible service to its members and friends. You are welcome to the use of our facilities.

The wedding ceremony is one of the most sacred rites of the church. It is the desire of the minister and the church family to make every such ceremony a beautiful and worshipful experience. We extend to each wedding party every possible courtesy and assistance.

To make available our services, the following procedures have been adopted.

MINISTER:

The minister of this church shall officiate at all marriages in the church, except in unusual situations where other arrangements are made with the minister. In the minister's absence, the minister will find and assign another ordained person to perform the ceremony with prior notice to the wedding couple.

Ministers of other denominations shall be free to use the facilities and perform the ceremony according to the rites of their respective churches, subject to the approval of the minister of this church.

The bride and groom shall arrange a premarital conference with the minister as far in advance of the ceremony as possible. This conference should be arranged before the announcements are made or invitations printed because the minister may be busy on the proposed wedding day if not contacted well in advance. This conference will provide information which will be helpful for properly preparing for Christian marriage.

The minister will conduct the rehearsal with the assistance of a wedding consultant, if desired, on the evening before the wedding, or at another mutually agreed upon time.

MUSIC:

Music used with the ceremony should be in keeping with the sacredness and dignity of the wedding service. All arrangements for music and for special music must be made with the church organist.

The church organist will be used unless there are valid reasons for using another organist; however, permission for a friend/relative to play will not be unreasonably withheld. In such case, the church organist still needs to be paid his/her fee.

PICTURES:

Flash pictures may not be taken during the ceremony itself, as it is a service of worship. Pictures may be taken during the processional, the recessional, and during the kiss. After the recessional, the wedding party may return to the sanctuary for as many pictures as are desired.

You may video tape the service if you desire. However, the person taking the pictures should remain stationary and not distract the guests by his/her location throughout the Church.

RICE, CONFETTI AND OTHER CELEBRATION MATERIALS:

Rice, confetti and other celebration materials to be thrown are to be thrown outside of the building, not inside.

INTOXICANTS:

No intoxicants are allowed on any church property. It is expected that the members of the wedding party will refrain from the use of intoxicants of all forms immediately preceding both the wedding and the rehearsal.

FLOWERS:

Flowers may be left for use in the church on Sunday and/or to be distributed to shut-ins. If you would like to leave your flowers, please contact the Flower Chairperson prior to your wedding day.

RECEPTIONS:

The parish hall is available for use for the reception following the wedding ceremony on most dates. Arrangements for the use of the parish hall for receptions should be made through the reservationist well in advance of the wedding date. The parish hall is not available the fourth Saturday of January thru May and of September and October.

The Ladies Circle will occasionally be available to cater for receptions. Talk to the reservationist about this service.

EXCEPTIONS:

Only the Board of Deacons and Deaconesses can authorize exceptions to the established wedding policy. Requests for such exceptions must be made to the Minister in writing at least forty-five days before the scheduled wedding date. In all cases, the Board's decision will be final.

RESERVATIONIST: Jane Spinney 207-439-2790

FLOWER CHAIRPERSON: Linda Gove 207-439-3856