

WEDDINGS

Second Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

35 Conant Street

Beverly, Massachusetts 01915

Phone: 978.922.5722, Fax: 978.922.3064

Email: parishadmin@beverlysecond.com

Web site: www.BeverlySecond.com

Marriage in the Church

The wedding ceremony is a service that celebrates a sacred and joyous covenant made between two people. When a couple decides to be married in a Christian religious ceremony, they acknowledge God and a faith community as part of their covenant-making.

The Christian church honors marriage and stands ready to support you as you embark on your new life together. Your wedding here will be a service of worship in which the wedding party, guests, clergy and church staff join to root your marriage in the love of God. The minister of Second Congregational Church welcomes couples of differing religious traditions and cultural backgrounds.

The members of Second Congregational Church are delighted that you have decided to have your wedding here. We hope that your sacred day will be a joyful foundation for a new life lived in commitment to one another.

The Wedding Service

Your wedding is a service of worship rooted in historic Christian rituals, but also reflective of your individuality. The pastor will make available to you an outline of the wedding service as usually conducted, but will also encourage you to participate in creating a service that both honors the past, faithful to its Christian traditions, and expresses your own love, lives and relationship.

Reserving the Sanctuary

Requests for weddings should reach the pastors and the church administrator at least 60 days in advance of the proposed wedding date. To ensure couples will obtain the date desired, an advance notice of six months is preferred and recommended.

Clergy and Counseling

All couples are requested either to meet with the pastor no fewer than three times prior to the wedding for premarital counseling sessions. This will give the Pastor and the couple an opportunity to become better acquainted with each other, to plan the wedding, and to discuss the blessings and challenges of marriage.

People who choose to marry are more and more frequently of different faith backgrounds. At Second Congregational Church, we believe their differences should enrich rather than detract from the wedding service. The Pastor will work with the couple to honor both parties' religious and ethnic traditions, beliefs and cultural values. At the request of the couple, the Pastor will also be pleased to invite other clergy to participate in the service. However, the wedding vows, the pronouncement of marriage, and the signing of the license shall be done by the Pastor.

Music

Music enriches the wedding ceremony. The church Organist plays at all weddings, unless other arrangements are approved by the Organist. Additional musicians may be contracted only with the prior approval of the Organist, who shall in all events have the final responsibility for the music at the wedding. The Organist may also recommend soloists or other musicians available for the wedding service, should those be desired.

Florists and Flowers

If bows or flowers are used to decorate the pews, they must be affixed with ribbon or string, no tape or wire. A number of flower stands are available at the church for your usage. The size of a runner for the center aisle is **125 feet**, which extends into the narthex. This should be supplied by the florist. A pair of silver candlesticks and a pair of brass candlesticks are available for the altar table. Many couples choose to incorporate a *Unity Candle* into their service; symbolizing the joining of two families. This should be supplied by the florist or the bride and groom.

Photographers/Videographers

To maintain the integrity of a religious ceremony, and to keep distractions to the bride and groom at a minimum, Second Congregational Church UCC provides these guidelines for your photographers and videographers:

- ◆ During the processional and recessional, flash photographs may be taken from the intersection of the center-aisle and cross-aisle, from a stationary location.
- ◆ During the ceremony, no photographs may be taken.
- ◆ Additional photographs may be staged after the ceremony
- ◆ Guests with cameras should be asked by the ushers to refrain from taking pictures during the Service.

Other Details

You should apply for the marriage license in your town of residence and give it to the Pastor at the third premarital counseling meeting. The Pastor will mail it in after the wedding and you should receive a processed copy from the civil authorities within a few weeks.

The church bell may be rung at the conclusion of the wedding service.

Your guest book should be in place 40 minutes before the service, so people can sign as they come in. The lectern in the entryway is a good place to place it.

No rice or confetti may be used in the sanctuary or on the church grounds. Our policy forbids the use of alcohol on church grounds.

Fees

Fees are detailed on the attached sheet.

A Message of Blessing

We hope to make your entrance into married life together a memorable, joyful and spiritually significant occasion. This can be a stress-filled time for you, divided by many needs and loyalties—it is our hope to make your wedding a time to be truly enjoyed, rather than simply endured. We stand ready to listen and respond to your questions and concerns, and are hopeful that your Second Congregational Church experience might give you a strong spiritual base from which to set out on this new journey together.

May God bless you as you plan your new life together!

Fee Schedule:

Pledging Member of Second Church:

Organist: \$200 (payable to designated person)

Sexton: \$100 (payable to designated person)

Minister: \$400 (payable to designated person)

Includes:

- Three premarital counseling sessions
- Crafting the wedding ceremony
- Conducting the wedding rehearsal
- Performing the wedding

Others:

Sanctuary: \$250 (payable to Second Congregational Church) – seats 250

Chapel: \$100 (may be used for smaller weddings in place of sanctuary) – seats 40

Organist: \$200 (payable to designated person)

Sexton: \$100 (payable to designated person) \$200 if reception in lower hall

Minister: \$400 (payable to designated person)

Fee includes:

- Three premarital counseling sessions and/or premarital workshop
- Crafting the wedding ceremony
- Conducting the wedding rehearsal
- Performing the wedding

The Lower Parish Hall is available for wedding receptions. The fee is \$150 and an additional \$100 for the Assistant for setup and cleanup. Outside catering service to be arranged by the bride and groom. Champagne toast allowed; no other alcohol allowed on premises.

***Please make out separate checks for Pastor, Organist, Sexton and Sanctuary.
Fees are due at the time of the third meeting with pastor.***

Second Congregational United Church of Christ
35 Conant Street, Beverly MA 01915

Please email this page to:

Wedding Information Sheet

Name of Bride _____ Groom _____

Address _____ Address _____

Phone (home) _____ Phone (home) _____

(Cell) _____ (Cell) _____

Previous Marriage? Yes ___ No ___ Previous Marriage? Yes ___ No ___

Church Affiliation _____ Church Affiliation _____

Wedding Date/Time _____ Rehearsal Date/Time _____

Place of Wedding _____

Place of Reception _____

Number of Guests expected _____

Maid/Matron of Honor _____ Best Man _____

Number of Bridesmaids _____ Number of Ushers _____

Ring bearer? _____ Flower Girl? _____

Bride's Escort down Aisle? _____

Florist _____

Photographer _____ Videographer _____

Limo Service _____

Unity Candle? _____

Special Concerns _____
