

## HOLY MATRIMONY AT CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTIANA HUNDRED

*The Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is a major rite of celebration in the Christian community. In the course of this celebration, a woman and a man declare before God and the congregation that they are knowingly and without reservation entering a relationship that has consequences for them and for society as a whole. When two people present themselves for this Sacrament, they are declaring that they are part of the Christian community and participants in its life. In order to uphold the integrity of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony and to provide a setting in which the couple and their families and friends can celebrate its joy, the following policies and procedures are adhered to in this parish.*

1. Clergy Consultation: The couple must consult personally with the clergy before a date and time for the service can be set. **This consultation must take place at least six months before the proposed wedding.** This date and time are subject to the clergy person's satisfaction about the proposed marriage at the completion of the required pre-marital counseling.
2. Qualifications for Marriage at Christ Church: a) at least one party to the marriage must be baptized, and we recommend that both be baptized; b) the bride and groom must be regular in attendance at a Christian Church. Exceptions will be made for one who is an attending member of another faith community; c) the bride and groom *or one of their immediate family members* must be "members in good standing of Christ Church Christiana Hundred." A member in "good standing" is defined by the Church as "one who for the previous year has been faithful in corporate worship and working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God."
3. Marriage of One Who Has Been Divorced: Application must be made to the Bishop of Delaware for permission to be married in the Church and by the clergy. The divorce must be at least one year old before such permission will be granted.
4. Marriage Counseling and the Service: The clergy person designated to celebrate and bless the marriage is responsible for and in charge of the required pre-marital counseling. It is his/her prerogative to invite other clergy to assist at the wedding. In this parish, the form for the marriage liturgy is as printed in the *Book of Common Prayer* of the Episcopal Church. It is the norm for the service to take place at Christ Church.
5. Music: The parish organist or his/her designee plays for all weddings in this parish. The music for the wedding and the use and selection of vocalists and musicians must be planned with and approved by the parish organist or his/her designee. The parish norm is that the organist does not attend the rehearsal; therefore, if the bride and groom determine that they wish the organist to be present, an additional fee will be applied.
6. Flowers: The use and placement of flowers for the wedding shall be coordinated by the Christ Church Wedding Committee with the bride. For Saturday weddings, it is appropriate, but not required, to use the memorial flowers provided for Sunday services. For safety reasons, we do not use a white runner in the church or chapel.

7. Wedding Rehearsal: The rehearsal is an important part of the marriage process and is under the direction of the clergy. It will be held at a time and date approved by the clergy. Those persons who are to be present and participate are: the bride and groom, the maid/matron of honor and the best man, the bridesmaids and the groomsmen, ring bearer and flower girl, if any, the bride's presenter, and readers, if any. The parish Wedding Committee will assist the clergy. **Please do not bring outside consultants to the rehearsal or to the church to assist with the wedding.**
8. Photography: Professional photographers are required to abide by the rules and regulations sent to them in advance (please see the attached sheet for the rules and regulations). Guests may not take photographs or videotapes in the church. This should be made clear to all who are invited to the wedding. Pictures of the bride and groom and their wedding party may be taken in the church following the service, provided that this not take more than 20 minutes.
9. Videotaping: Professional videotaping of the marriage ceremony is available through AOV Productions. This is the only firm authorized to use Christ Church video equipment. The fee for this service includes editing. It is the couple's responsibility to call AOV (234-9577) to arrange for their services.
10. Receiving Lines and Church Responsibility: Receiving of wedding guests is a function for the reception. Please do not use confetti, rice, rose petals, or birdseed either inside or outside the church. Also, please discourage the blowing of horns when leaving the church property. Christ Church is not responsible for any property left in the buildings before or after the wedding.
11. Fees: There are certain established fees as well as fees for optional services. The expectation is that these fees will be paid at least one week in advance of the wedding (please see the attached sheet for the fee schedule).
12. Clergy: The clergy person consulting with a couple will normally officiate at the wedding. However, he/she may request another clergy person to officiate if circumstances dictate.
13. Wedding Committee: A member of the Wedding Committee, which is a volunteer group at the church, will contact the bride approximately two months before the wedding to schedule a conference to discuss details. Conferences are held in the church and can be arranged Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM or on Saturday from 9 AM to 12 noon.
14. Use of Alcoholic Beverages at Church Social Functions: **Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the church.** At wedding receptions, wine, beer, and champagne may be served. Spirits are prohibited. Minors are restricted from drinking alcoholic beverages. Alcoholic beverages must be clearly labeled as such. Non-alcoholic alternatives must always be offered with equal attractiveness and accessibility and in equal amounts, and food must be served when alcohol is present. Alcoholic beverages should cease being served well before an event ends and while food remains out.

**CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTIANA HUNDRED**

P. O. Box 3510, Greenville

Wilmington, DE 19807

**Wedding Expenses**

Church Fees (includes costs for sexton and organist) \$ 400.00

Extra Musicians (includes fees charged by soloist and other musicians) \$

Rehearsal Fee for Organist (Optional – \$75) \$  
(Organist does not routinely attend rehearsals)

Candles down Aisle for Evening Services (Optional – \$150) \$

Canopy at Church Door (Optional – \$150) \$

Video of Wedding Service (Optional – \$450) \$

Contribution to Clergy Discretionary Fund (Optional) \$  
(Used by the clergy for outreach and education)

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Total \$

DATE

NAME  
ADDRESS  
ADDRESS

Dear

We have been informed by BRIDE and GROOM that you have been commissioned to photograph their wedding service on DATE. Weddings are a service of worship as well as a special occasion in the life of your clients. Therefore we limit the interruption that photography can cause. Please read the following parish regulations and then **sign and return** the form at the bottom of this page **at least one week before the service**. We reserve the right to further limit access for the purposes of photography, including a prohibition of your professional services if you do not respect the following regulations.

The regulations for photographing weddings at Christ Church are:

- Before the service, photographs may be taken outside the church, in the bride's room, in the undercroft, and in the narthex.
- All photographs of the marriage service shall be taken from the narthex or the balcony without flash. No cameras, tripods, or video equipment shall be placed on or near the altar, organ, or choir.
- Photographs may be taken from the aisle as the bride and groom are leaving after the service.
- Photographs of the bridal party may be taken in the church following the service for a brief period (twenty minutes).

**Please sign and return the form below in the enclosed envelope.**

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I have been commissioned to photograph the wedding of BRIDE and GROOM on DATE at Christ Church Christiana Hundred. I have read the regulations that apply, and I understand them and agree to abide by them. I realize any violation of this policy will constitute a prohibition of my professional services, or that of my company, at weddings in Christ Church in the future.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Marriage License Requirements

- The couple must apply together.
- The office of the Clerk of the Peace is open Monday through Friday from 9 AM until noon and from 1 PM until 4 PM. The office is closed for lunch from noon until 1 PM.
- You must be at least 18 years of age to marry.
- You cannot be related to each other or be of the same sex.
- You cannot be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Marriage licenses are valid for 30 days.
- Persons intending to be married within the State of Delaware shall obtain a marriage license at least 24 hours prior to the time of the ceremony. This applies to residents as well as non-residents.
- The Marriage license fee is \$30 if either applicant is a Delaware resident; \$60 if neither applicant is a Delaware resident.
- A State ID or Drivers license issued by the DMV, Passport, Military ID, or Government Consulate ID is required.
- If individuals have previously been married, an original or certified copy of the Divorce Decree, Annulment, or Death Certificate is required.
- Special authorization is required if either party is on probation or parole.

The Hon. Kenneth W. Boulden, Jr.  
Clerk of the Peace  
Louis L. Redding City/County Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
800 N. French Street  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
(302) 395-7780  
[www.co.new-castle.de.us](http://www.co.new-castle.de.us)