

## 5. PICTURES

The couple should select their own photographer. As a courtesy to wedding guests, it is suggested that the pictures be scheduled so guests are not kept waiting. Video cameras may be set up in the sanctuary prior to the service, but they must remain solitary. No flash photography will be allowed during the service.

## 6. FURNISHINGS

“It is fitting that the couple kneel for the final prayer.”  
(*Directory of Worship*)

The following furnishings are available from the church at no cost.

- kneeling Rail
- 4 pewter candelabras
- 2 brass candelabras
- 10 pewter aisle candleholders
- matching wooden floor stand of various heights
- unity candle holder

The couple should provide the candles for the pewter candelabras, aisle candleholders and the unity candle. The brass candelabras burn oil which is provided by the church. The couple is also responsible for the ceremony program, if one is used.

## 7. CHURCH CONDUCT

**No alcoholic beverages are to be served in the church building.** Bird seed is recommended as an environmentally friendly alternative to the throwing of rice or confetti. In any case, it may be thrown only outside the church building.

## 8. GIFTS AND VALUABLES

The church is not responsible for valuables, nor any safe place for storage. If desired, dresses may be brought to the church the night of the rehearsal and hung on a clothes rack provided in the lounge. This room can be locked. Gifts must be removed from the premises following the ceremony. It is prudent to designate a person to be in charge of gifts in the church and see that they are removed from the church.

## 9. CUSTODIAL SERVICES

The church custodian will set up according to the plan provided by the Wedding Coordinator in cooperation with the bridal party and will clean up after the wedding.



**Valley Community Presbyterian Church**  
**3100 North Lilac Drive, Golden Valley, MN 55422**  
**763-588-0831 • [www.valleychurch.net](http://www.valleychurch.net)**

Clergy:

Reverend Richard Buller  
Reverend Sarah Bigwood

Wedding Coordinator:

Cheryl Smith – 612-588-2108

## **To the Couple:**

Congratulations! The decision to marry is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. We hope that the information in this brochure will help you to get your marriage off on a sound footing.

The *Directory for Worship*, part of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) gives the following guidance regarding marriage:

*In Baptism, each Christian is claimed in the covenant of God's faithful love. Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives. The sacrificial love that unites the couple sustains them as faithful and responsible members of the church and the wider community. In civil law, marriage is a contract that recognizes the rights and obligations of the married couple in society. In the Reformed tradition, marriage is also a covenant in which God has an active part, and which the community of faith publicly witnesses and acknowledges.*

In preparation for the marriage service, the minister who leads the service shall provide for a discussion with the couple concerning:

1. The nature of their Christian commitment, assuring that at least one is a professing Christian.
2. The legal requirements of the state.
3. The privileges and responsibilities of Christian marriage.
4. The nature and form of the marriage service.
5. The vows and commitments they will be asked to make.
6. The relationship of these commitments to their lives of discipleship.
7. The resources of the faith and the Christian community to assist them in fulfilling their marriage commitments.

The discussion is equally important in the case of a first marriage, a marriage after the death of a spouse, and a marriage following divorce. As soon as possible, you should contact the church office to schedule your wedding. Because Valley Church does get heavy community use, it is very important to get the date on the church calendar as quickly as possible. The church Office Administrator will confirm that your wedding date is available with a pastor and then schedule an appointment for the pastor to meet with you.

You will also be given the name and phone number of the Wedding Coordinator of the church who will work with you in developing the plans for your wedding. You will soon discover that planning a wedding is a complex and time-consuming task. Please read this brochure carefully. The following areas of concern have been developed by the Session of Valley Community Presbyterian Church to assure you of a memorable and well organized Christian wedding celebration.

## **1. OFFICIANT**

Normally, a pastor of Valley Community Presbyterian Church will officiate at the wedding. If it is desired that another minister, priest, or rabbi assist or preside, this is welcome and should be discussed at the first meeting with the minister.

## **2. STATE REQUIREMENTS**

In the state of Minnesota, no physical examination is required prior to receiving a license. There is a 5-day waiting period after applying for the license. Both parties must be present when applying for the license. The license is valid for 6 months. No license will be issued in the case of remarriage when a divorce has not been finalized. For further information call the Hennepin County License Department at 612-348-8240. The license must be brought to the church 2-3 working days before the wedding and given to the Office Administrator. This will allow ample time to complete the forms that the witnesses and minister sign the day of the ceremony.

By completing a full course of premarital counseling, couples qualify for a reduced fee for license application with a signed and notarized letter from the church. The pastor will assist you with this process upon completion.

## **3. MUSIC**

"Music suitable for the marriage service directs attention to and expresses the faith of the church." (*Directory of Worship*)

The church organist is available for weddings and should ordinarily be asked to play. Qualified persons other than the church organist may be used upon request, with the approval of the pastor and organist. All music should be selected in consultation with the organist. It is recommended that a soloist of the couple's choosing be used. The soloist and organist should arrange for practice on their own in advance of the wedding. Additional music, vocal or instrumental, may be arranged. The pastor and the organist should be consulted before final arrangements are agreed upon.

## **4. FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS**

"Flowers, decorations and other appointments should be appropriate to the place of worship, enhance the worshippers' conscious reality of God and reflect the integrity and simplicity of Christian life." (*Directory of Worship*)

The couple should select their own florist. The florist supplies guidelines for flowers, aisle cloths, and ring-bearer's pillows in addition to floral arrangements.