

**Holy Matrimony Statement of Faith
and
Christ Church Wedding Policies and Guidelines**

The purpose of this document is to establish a clear understanding of the doctrine of Christian Holy Matrimony at Christ Church and the policies and procedures for weddings. Please read it in its entirety. Return a signed copy of this document to the church office, and keep a copy for your reference. If you have any questions, please call us, 843.884.9090.

**Christian Holy Matrimony
A Statement of Faith**

We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, a single, exclusive union intended by God to be life-long. This union signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and His Church, reconciling and uniting two complements. Because God has ordained and defined it as His covenant relationship between a man and a woman, our Church will only recognize and solemnize a marriage that is between one man and one woman, and our facilities will only host such weddings.

This statement does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs regarding Holy Matrimony. For the purposes of this Church, in faith, doctrine, practice, policy and discipline, the Rector, under the ultimate authority of the Bishop, is the final interpretive authority on matters of doctrine and their application.

Wedding Policies and Guidelines

1. All weddings must be scheduled with the Parish Administrator, Howard Harder (843.884.9090; hharder@christch.org), who will obtain approval from the Rector prior to dates being confirmed. Once your date has been confirmed, the Wedding Guild Coordinator will contact you, and give you a wedding service checklist in order to begin working with you on the elements and details of the ceremony.

We do not celebrate the sacrament of Holy Matrimony in Lent, as it is a season of penitence and fasting. The dates for Lent vary from year to year, being dependent on the date of Easter, which is a movable feast.

Special decorations which are part of Christ Church's observance of other seasons in the Church year will remain in place. For example, Advent banners and/or Christmas decorations will remain in place for December weddings.

2. Of couples wishing to be married at Christ Church, at least one person must be a communicant in good standing or the immediate family member of such a member of Christ Church; if the couple is being married at Christ Church as "the immediate family member of," that is, not as members of this church, then they must be active participants of another church. The following is a summary of the canonical definitions

of membership, communicant status, and communicant in good standing status in this church. The Rector shall be responsible to make the determination as to a person's membership and communicant status.

A **member** in this Church is one whose Christian Baptism was performed in this Church, or whose Christian Baptism in another church has been officially transferred and recorded in this Church.

A **communicant** is a **member** who has received communion in this Church at least 3 times in the previous 12 months.

A **communicant in good standing** is a communicant who has been faithful in corporate worship and in working, praying, and financial giving in this Church in the period prior to the determination of this status.

3. A priest or other ordained minister not on staff at Christ Church may request, in writing to the Rector, the courtesy of the use of Christ Church's facility for the wedding of his/her parishioner, schedule and other factors permitting.
4. Couples must comply with the Canons of the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina, including the provisions for pre-marital counseling and the necessary permission from the Bishop if either party has been previously married. (Remarriage directives from the Bishop are available in the church office or at <https://adosc.org/>.)
5. Prior to the first premarital counseling session with the Rector or Associate Rector, couples are required to take an online premarital assessment called PREPARE/ENRICH and to meet with Deacon Joyce or Dr. Koch for an interpretation of the results. This is a cutting edge tool used world-wide to help prepare couples for marriage. The cost of this assessment is \$35 and the couple can pay online. To receive your log-in codes, please contact Deacon Joyce Harder at jharder@christch.org.
6. Music is used as an offering for the glory of God and as a help to the people in their worship, and the officiating minister shall have final authority in matters pertaining to music. The Rector, in consultation with the Director of Music, will approve all music. Secular music, including Wagner's "Bridal Chorus" from *Lohengrin* and Mendelsohn's "Wedding March" from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, is not considered appropriate. The Organist of Christ Church will be used for all weddings, schedule permitting. Once your date has been confirmed, contact Dr. Lorna Barker directly at 884-9090 x222 or lbarker@christch.org.
7. Due to space limitations, weddings in the Historic church cannot accommodate more than 100 guests and 3 attendants, excluding the bride.
8. Rehearsals will begin promptly at the scheduled time. Allow 1 hour and 15 minutes for the rehearsal when scheduling a rehearsal dinner party or other event following the

rehearsal (rehearsals will not be shortened). All participants in the wedding (i.e. wedding party, readers, parents, etc.) are to attend the rehearsal. The wedding license must be brought to the church no later than the rehearsal.

9. A bridal room is available for the bridal party 2 hours prior to the wedding. No food or drink other than water is allowed in the bridal room. All bags and personal items need to be removed before leaving the church campus.
10. A service bulletin is optional for the wedding service. If you choose to have a bulletin, you may either use one that Christ Church has designed and produces, or contract with a commercial printer to design and produce it. Once the church has confirmed your wedding date, the Wedding Guild Coordinator will send you an example of the Christ Church bulletin. If you choose to use this option, all information for it must be submitted electronically to the Director of Communications, Katy Hunter (khunter@christch.org), no later than 6 weeks prior to your wedding. The first 100 copies are free; each additional 50 copies will be printed at a charge of \$25. If you choose to work with an outside printer, you must submit a draft to the officiating minister for review before printing.
11. Since the wedding is a worship service, no photography is allowed during the wedding ceremony (from the start of the procession into the church through the recession out of the church). Videography is permitted provided there is prior consultation with the officiating priest concerning stationary camera location. All service bulletins will include the statement "The congregation is asked not to take pictures during the service." If requested and if a member of our trained video team is available on the date requested, live-streaming video & audio services are available for an additional fee of \$100.
12. The Wedding Guild is responsible for assisting the officiating priest in the conduct of the rehearsal and the wedding. These persons are well-versed in the policies, procedures and traditions of Christ Church. A member of this Guild shall act as wedding director at all weddings.
13. Decorations (flowers, greenery, ribbon, candles, etc.) are subject to the approval of the Wedding Guild and ultimately of the Rector. Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and will remain for the Sunday services with a note in the bulletin that they are given by the couple. Neither artificial flowers or greenery are permitted. Rice, flower petals, etc. may not be thrown.
14. In order to facilitate the welcome and seating of the congregation, all groomsmen will serve as ushers prior to the service.
15. Members of the wedding party must be at least 5 years old.
16. Fees and honoraria for the wedding are as follows:

\$1,200 per wedding, due before the church will be reserved.

This fee is waived for any member (or their immediate family) of the church having pledged and given a minimum of \$1200 in the previous 12 months.

In addition, the following are due a minimum of one month before the wedding:

- \$25 fee for Christ Church Altar Guild
- \$25 fee for Christ Church Flower Guild
- \$300 fee for Christ Church Wedding Guild
(The above fees should be included in one check for \$350 made out to Christ Church.)
- \$300 fee made out and given directly to the organist Lorna Barker.
- \$250 minimum honorarium made out and given directly to the officiating priest.
- \$100 fee made out and given directly to the video system operator. (if used)

If you have any questions regarding your wedding, please contact us. Do not make any changes to your wedding plans without first notifying the church office - all schedule changes must be made through the Parish Administrator.

The Rev. Ted Duvall, Rector	843.884.9090 ext. 225
The Rev. Dr. Jady Koch, Associate Rector	843.884.9090 ext. 253
Deacon Joyce Harder, Pastoral Care Associate	843.884.9090 ext. 228
Mr. Howard Harder, Parish Administrator	843.884.9090 ext. 221
Mrs. Michele Talley, Wedding Guild Coordinator	843.224.0252
Dr. Lorna Barker, Director of Music/Organist	843.884.9090 ext. 222
Mrs. Katy Hunter, Communications Director	843.884.9090 ext. 230

_____/_____
Bride or Groom/ date

Revised April 2021