

Wedding Policy

Niles Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, recognizes the importance of services of worship in which a covenant is made in God's presence between two people who, having discovered and acknowledged the gift of love, accept the responsibility to nurture that love in commitment to each other. The wedding service may be between a different-gender couple or between a same-gender couple. Marriage is rooted in the affirmation of the Christian faith, and the wedding service is first and foremost a service of worship in which the gift of human love is celebrated within the context of God's love and purpose for life.

Couples who seek to be married at Niles Congregational Church, will meet all the requirements of the pastor, including premarital counseling and planning sessions. Couples are strongly encouraged to worship with the church family of Niles Congregational Church during their planning time. In normal circumstances, a pastor of Niles Congregational Church will perform all wedding ceremonies. When another pastor is requested, a pastor of Niles Congregational Church will still participate in the service and be its primary coordinator.

Couples shall comply with all facilities use policies of Niles Congregational Church (including facilities use costs). Weddings happen in the midst of the life of the church. When banners, mobiles, hanging symbols and other liturgical art are present in the sanctuary, they may only be moved with prior consent in consultation with the pastor; an additional fee may be required.

When the couple has no direct relationship with the church, a fee shall be charged for the services of the pastor, set by the pastor in consultation with the Personnel Committee. When one (or both) member of the couple is a church member or active participant in the life of Niles Congregational Church, the fee for the service of the pastor will be half that charged couples with no relationship to the church. Fees for the pastor are paid directly by the couple.

Fees for the Wedding Coordinator and Organist will be set annually by the Personnel Committee. The Wedding Coordinator and Organist will each be paid directly by the couple. Except in the case of very small weddings, the services of the Wedding Coordinator will always be required. The Church Organist shall have "right of first refusal" on weddings conducted in Niles Congregational Church and if the Organist is available, but the couple chooses to use another organist or musician, a bench fee will be paid.

All wedding receptions held at Niles Congregational Church shall be coordinated by the Wedding Coordinator and will comply with all facilities use policies of the church.