

# *GRAYSTONE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*

## *WEDDING GUIDELINES*

A Christian wedding is one of the happiest and holiest moments in the lives of two Christian people. It is a spiritual service of worship, commitment, and celebration. Our sanctuary is available for weddings of members and non-members who meet PCUSA and Graystone Session requirements.

The couple needs to be practicing Christians and active in their home church, desiring a sacred and meaningful marriage ceremony. Often home churches are either too small or too large for a wedding ceremony or home churches are not in Knoxville, so Graystone makes itself available. Our sanctuary will accommodate up to 325 people. A written request introducing yourself and your groom and your reason for marrying at Graystone is required along with a completed Reservation form. (Please include your picture, if possible.) A personal interview will be the next step. Upon completion of these three items and receipt of the \$250 deposit, Session, the governing body of our church, will consider your request.

A Graystone wedding is considered a worship service and if you are considering serving communion, it must be offered to all attending. A private communion will not be approved. Any request for a communion service must be approved by session. Typically, only the pastor of Graystone, a pastor of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or one of its full communion partners will be approved to celebrate the sacrament of communion.

The total cost of a wedding at Graystone is \$1000. A \$250 non-refundable deposit is required along with your paperwork to reserve your wedding date. If for some reason your wedding is not approved, you will be refunded your deposit. One month prior to your wedding date, the balance of \$750 is due. Upon signing the wedding contract, any damages, incurred by the wedding party, to the building, contents, or grounds, will be the responsibility of the bridal party under the supervision of the Graystone Property Committee.

Two weddings may not be scheduled on the same day. Sunday weddings are discouraged. December weddings can only be held with special permission and consideration by our Session, due to the numerous holiday demands at Graystone. Should a Christmas wedding be approved, all Advent decorations must stay. No weddings may be scheduled during Holy Week or Thanksgiving weekends. Special circumstances will be considered (i.e. deployment). Our pastor will perform your ceremony, if he is available and agreeable. Any other minister must be certified and also approved by Session.

We have an expensive and wonderful pipe organ that requires extreme care and consideration. Our church organist does participate in weddings, if she is available and willing, for an additional fee to be agreed upon. Your personal organist can be used, but must be approved by our organist and by the Session. A Graystone sound operator is required for the rehearsal and ceremony. The sound operator and church hostess fee is included in your usage fee. No inappropriate secular

music, drama, interpretive dance, etc., can be conducted. This is a worship service and reverence must be observed at all times.

The parlor may be used by female attendants and males may use the Alpha Classroom located in the office area. The church will not receive delivery of or store wedding dresses or tuxedos.

No floral arrangements of any kind can be left by the florist unless specifically ordered to be placed on our flower stands and used by the church for the Sunday morning worship service after the wedding. The Bible must not be moved and seasonal or white paraments are allowed. The communion table cannot be moved out of the chancel area. All candles must be dripless and guarded. No aisle candles are allowed. Please be cautious of any potential water damage from flower containers. No tacks, staple guns, glue, or tape that could permanently mar or damage walls or wood can be used. A kneeling bench is available for your use. No confetti, bird seed, or rice can be used inside or outside of the church.

Florists and photographers must coordinate with the church's wedding hostess concerning the time the church will be made accessible. Please take as many pictures as possible before the ceremony. Please do not take photographs during prayers. The photographer is not to disrupt or impede the ceremony in any way. Video equipment can be set up in the balcony. This equipment must remain stationary. If a camera is used in the chancel area, it must be stationary and hidden by greenery, candelabra, etc. Neither Bibles, nor hymnals can be removed from the pew racks.

The wedding couple must complete marriage counseling by a certified counselor before the ceremony can take place. The pastor of Graystone Presbyterian, Rev. Jim Lunde, is available to provide pre-marital counseling for an additional fee. The license must be available the night of the rehearsal to ensure it is complete and correct for the ceremony to proceed.

No alcoholic beverages nor smoking is allowed anywhere, anytime. Rooms need to be left in good order, with all trash in trash containers and no food left in refrigerators or coolers. All facilities must be left in order and any obvious spills must be remedied. Tables must be left clear and clean and chairs in order. Dressing rooms should be left tidy and trash placed in receptacles.

The signed application form will serve as a contract between the wedding couple and Graystone, agreeing that all requirements will be met.

We want Graystone Presbyterian Church to be more than just a beautiful place to get married. We want Graystone to be a sacred and meaningful sacrament for anyone who is willing to follow our guidelines. Let us rejoice with you on your special day.

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