

## WEDDING POLICY

If you choose to be married at All Nations Fellowship, we hope to help you have a wedding that will express your own covenant with each other and God. Your wedding may be simple or elaborate. The spirit within your heart is the important thing. We will assist you with any special arrangements that you may wish to include. We can assure you that you will enjoy working with us so that your wedding experience will be enjoyable and deeply meaningful. The sanctuary of the church is ideal for a wedding with a long central aisle and classic gothic church architecture and with a direct entrance from Napoleon Ave. The leadership of All Nations has established the following policies and practices to insure that the wedding will be a good experience for the church and for you, the couple.

Weddings are to be scheduled through the co-ordinator at a time when the buildings to be used are free for such use. The wedding fee includes use of the sanctuary for 2 hours. The building will be open one hour prior to the start time of the wedding. If you need access to the sanctuary earlier, you will need to make special arrangements and an additional fee may be charged. The fee also includes use of the sanctuary for one hour for the wedding rehearsal. The building will be open 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the rehearsal and will be closed exactly one hour after the agreed upon start time. Please be on time.

Normally a pastor on the staff of the church shall conduct the ceremony. When this is not possible or when the couple request another minister, another minister may be invited to conduct the service. Whoever conducts the ceremony should be a duly ordained minister and registered with the State of Louisiana.

Those who seek the services of the minister of All Nations Fellowship for a marriage service will be expected to participate in pre-marital counseling. Such counseling is for strengthening the relationship of the couple to be married. There will normally be two sessions, one to get to know the couple and discuss family background, marriage expectations, finances, religious background and other matters. The second session will be devoted to determining how the service will be conducted (methods of procession down the aisle, who is seated, who gives the bride away, etc.). The pastor provides the couple with a marriage ceremony that includes choices to be made by the couple such as prayers to be used, forms of marriage vows, various statements on the gift of marriage, and possible Scriptures to be read. The couple makes these choices in consultation with the minister and a customized marriage ceremony is produced that is satisfactory to the couple and the minister.

The music selected should be in harmony with the sacredness of the wedding covenant. You will be expected to concur with the minister if he/she feels any music would not be appropriate.

Only dripless candles (candles with acrylic casing) may be used. Any cost to the church caused by candle wax on the rugs or furniture must be paid by the wedding party.

No decorations shall be attached to any furniture by pinning, nailing or taping. (Free-standing arrangements/candleabras are encouraged.) Neither should any furniture be moved or rearranged.

The use of rice or confetti for throwing is not allowed in the building, church grounds or adjoining sidewalks. We will be happy to recommend appropriate alternatives.

All decorations, extra programs, unity candles, ring pillows, pew bows, and all other wedding accoutrements must be removed from the church when the wedding party leaves. You are welcome to throw flower petals, birdseed, etc., as long as a person of your designation cleans up the remnants of such festivities. Silk flower petals may NOT be thrown outside of the church.

Pictures may be taken before and after the wedding service. It is our preference that timed exposures may be taken from the back of the sanctuary or balcony during the service. Flash cameras may be used while the wedding party is making its entrance up the aisle but after the entrance of the bride, only minimal flash photography is to be used during the rest of the service. Photographers are not to move about taking pictures during the service. Video cameras may be used during the service so long as they operate from a fixed position either in the back or front of the sanctuary or balcony. No special video lights are to be used during the service. The officiant will be glad to pose after the service with the wedding party for any photographs that may be necessary. \*Guest officiants may choose to waive these restrictions or impose others. Please check with the presiding officiant.

The fee structure for a wedding at All Nations Fellowship is attached. All fees are to be paid to the church by checks made out to the church except for the music fees. A deposit of \$250 is necessary to hold the date for a wedding and as a refundable damage deposit. The remainder of the wedding fee is due one month before the wedding. The wedding party will not be allowed in the building on the wedding day until all fees are paid. Payments must be in the form of a check. Cash can not be accepted.

If instrumentalists or soloists are used, the bride is expected to make her own arrangements with them. The church will be glad to provide a list of instrumentalists and soloists that may be contacted. Please remember that the marriage service in a Christian church is a worship service and music should be chosen that is consistent with that purpose. Arrangements can be made if you have a component that is compatible with our sound system. Someone of your designation must be responsible for coordinating such music.

It is to be understood that the officiating minister is in charge of the rehearsal and wedding service. He/she will seek to direct it in accordance with the wishes of the couple insofar as propriety dictate. The service should be consistent with the worship of Almighty God. Any desires of the bride and groom should be made known to the officiating minister well in advance of the ceremony. The church wedding coordinator will also be present at the rehearsal and the ceremony to assist the pastor and the wedding party. Additional bridal consultants are unnecessary, but if present shall be limited to assisting the bride and her attendants before they enter the sanctuary.

Normally, the signatures for completion of the Marriage Certificate will be obtained at the end of the marriage ceremony. As required by law, the minister will mail the completed certificate to the Louisiana Vital Records Registry. A copy of the final certificate will be mailed to the bride and

groom however, a certified copy is needed for legal purposes and the bride and groom are responsible for getting this copy from the Vital Records Registry.

These policies shall be given to all persons who seek information about getting married at All Nations Fellowship.