

YOUR WEDDING
at
Associated Church
Owatonna, Minnesota

INTRODUCTION:

It is our expectation that your wedding service at Associated Church will be an occasion of meaningful and memorable worship, giving thanks to God for your two lives as they are joined together in marriage and for the God-given love you share.

Weddings are a service of the church made available to couples who understand their relationship to be blessed by God and who seek to claim that blessing for their life together as husband and wife. We want to provide, within the framework of our liturgy and tradition, a worship service that will be uniquely your own and help you begin your new life together with a vibrant sense of God's blessing.

After reading this policy statement, please complete, sign and return the *Wedding Information Form* with a fifty dollar deposit. Once received, your wedding can be scheduled at *Associated*. The church will provide a minister based on availability. Participation by ministers from other churches is negotiable.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION WORKSHOP:

Associated Church belongs to a group of churches that require attendance at a Marriage Preparation Workshop before being married here. An application and schedule is included with this material. The information is also available online, at http://www.lssmn.org/counseling/marriage_workshop.htm. In addition, the minister requires 1-3 meetings to get acquainted, plan the service and discuss a variety of marital issues. Please discuss these meeting times directly with the minister.

YOUR WEDDING:

Most weddings are held in the sanctuary, which seats 280 people in 28 pews (14 on each side of the aisle). The chapel holds 50 people in 12 pews (6 on each side of the aisle). Rooms are available for the wedding party to dress at the church. The bride and her attendants may dress in room number E-3 in the East Hall; the groom and his attendants in room W-2 in the West Hall. Ushers are to light the candles 15-20 minutes before the service begins, and begin seating people no later than 15 minutes before the service. **NO** rice, confetti or bird seed may be used.

YOUR REHEARSAL:

The rehearsal is held at the convenience of the minister and the wedding party. The suggested time is the evening before the wedding day. Everyone involved in the wedding, including the parents, needs to be at rehearsal. Rehearsals begin promptly and last approximately one hour.

MUSIC FOR YOUR WEDDING:

The church will provide an organist/pianist. Please indicate on your *Wedding Information Form* if you plan to use the church's organ or piano. A soloist may be obtained through the church or by the bride and groom with the approval of the minister. There is a great wealth of wedding music. The organist scheduled for your wedding can help with choices. Instrumental solos or ensemble music are also appropriate for your wedding. All music used at the service is subject to approval by the church's minister and organist. We reserve the right to ensure the use of music appropriate for Christian worship.

FLOWERS/ AISLE RUNNER:

If you are having fresh flowers and plan to leave them for the Sunday worship services, please advise the minister. We will put your name on the flower calendar in the church office. The church does not have an aisle runner. The center aisle is carpeted and runners are discouraged for safety reasons. If your heart

is set on using a runner, please tell the minister. Runners can be rented from a florist. The church's center aisle is 63 feet long.

CANDLES:

Associated Church offers three types of candles for your wedding:

Wall Sconce Candles: 16 candles located on the east and west walls of the nave.

Two Candelabras: 9 candles each

Pew Candles: 10 candles that are mounted on the center aisle pews.

The couple is responsible for providing their own unity candle and holder. The unity candle is needed for the rehearsal.

PHOTOGRAPHS:

Photographs may be taken before or after the service. If taken before, please have all photography completed at least thirty minutes before the service is scheduled to begin. **No flash pictures are to be taken during the service!** Photographs may be taken during the processional and recessional. **Videotaping** may also be done with one camera and one operator; the camera must be on a tripod placed where the minister directs. The camera operator is requested to not move around. The photographer and videographer provide all needed equipment.

BULLETINS:

Printed bulletins, if desired, are to be secured through a printer. The following is a suggested *Order for Worship* with the music, meditation and the unity candle optional.

- Prelude Music
- Processional
- Call to Worship
- Opening Prayer
- The Wedding Pledge
- Solo – if used
- Scripture Reading(s)
- Meditation
- Wedding Vows
- Exchange of Rings
- Unity Candle
- Solo – if used
- The Wedding Prayer and
Lord's Prayer (may be sung as a solo)
- Declaration of Marriage
- Charge to the Couple
- Benediction
- Recessional Music

A RECEPTION HERE:

If you desire a reception in the church's Fellowship Hall, arrangements may be made with the Administrative Assistant in the church office (451-1546).

[The Fellowship Hall will seat 200 people. Food is to be catered by a catering service. Decorations are the responsibility of the wedding party. Check with the Administrative Assistant about when decorations may be put up in the Hall.]

TOBACCO-FREE and ALCOHOL-FREE:

Associated Church is tobacco-free and alcohol-free. It is up to the bride and groom to remind their wedding party of this policy. Please leave alcohol and tobacco at home.

YOUR LICENSE:

Your marriage license must be obtained from the county court administrator before the wedding service. There is a ***five day waiting period*** from the time of your application. The bride and groom must be at least 18 years old or have parental and district court permission to marry. Your license may be obtained anywhere in the state of Minnesota. Normally the license is issued in the county of the bride's residence. Please **bring your license to the church** by the Wednesday preceding your wedding, along with the names (correct spellings, thank you) of the two witnesses, who must be at least sixteen years old.

DIRECTIONS TO ASSOCIATED:

Associated Church of Owatonna is located at 800 Havana Road, Owatonna, Minnesota 55060. You can refer your guests to our website (AssociatedChurch.org) for directions and maps or print the following:

From the North:

- a) Take I-35 south to Owatonna and exit at *Bridge Street*. Go left (east) on *Bridge Street*.
- b) Follow *Bridge Street* through town. It makes a bend by the power plant and becomes *Main Street*. Follow *Main Street* east through downtown, past the town square and county courthouse. Continue three blocks past the courthouse to the third light at *Lincoln Avenue*. Turn right (south) on *Lincoln Avenue* and proceed about 10 blocks to the stop sign at *Havana Road*. Turn left (east) on *Havana Road* for one long block and one very short block. *Associated Church* has a very high A-frame roof and is directly across from Lincoln School.

From the South:

- a) Take I-35 north to Owatonna and exit at *Bridge Street*. Go right (east) on *Bridge Street* and then follow the directions in "b" above.

From the Southeast:

Take Hwy 14 to Owatonna and exit at 218 and 48. At the stop sign go left (north) to the second road, which is *Havana Road*. Turn left (west) on *Havana Road* and proceed a few blocks. The church is on the right.

Parking and Handicapped Accessible

There is plenty of off-street parking. Handicapped parallel parking is provided on both sides of the service drive, on the west side of the parking lot, in front of the entrance. *Associated Church* is handicapped accessible.

EXPENSES:**Building Use**

There is no charge for use of the building if the bride and groom, or their parents, have been active members of the church for at least six months prior to the wedding.

The building use fee for inactive and non-members is:	Sanctuary	\$200
	Chapel	\$100

Organist \$100

Vocal Soloist (obtained by the church): \$50
(If your soloist is singing more than two songs, compensate accordingly)

Sound Board Operator \$45
(This is required if you are having a soloist or other musicians or music that requires the P.A. System.)

Custodian
(For normal set up) \$75
(If you also have your reception here) \$125

Minister
active church members: \$150
inactive and non-members: \$250

A *Summary of Wedding Expenses* is mailed by the Financial Coordinator to the bride about one week before the service. We request that all fees be paid before or at the rehearsal.

If your address changes between now and the time of your wedding, please notify the Administrative Assistant by phone (451-1546), mail or email: Sue@AssociatedChurch.org.

Marriage Preparation Workshop Fee \$80
(This fee is payable and mailed directly to Lutheran Social Services at the address in their brochure.)