

The Christian Marriage Ceremony

The Christian marriage ceremony is a service of worship before God, normally conducted within the house of God. Reverence shall be expected on the part of all present, and the service shall be under the sole direction of the minister.

Such music as accompanies the ceremony should direct attention to God, who sanctifies marriage, and special care should be taken to assure that it is suitable and reverent. If desired, the congregation may be invited to join in the singing of hymns at the beginning and the conclusion of the service.

Flowers, decorations, and other appointments should not be elaborate. In all the activities surrounding the ceremony, excessive expense and ostentation should be avoided.

The marriage service shall begin with a brief statement of the meaning of the Christian marriage. At appropriate times during that ceremony there shall be prayers for the couple as they enter their new estate. There shall be an exchange of vows between the man and the woman, and if so desired, a ring or rings may be given. Scripture appropriate for the occasion should be read and the minister should deliver a charge to the couple, laying before them the privileges and obligations which they are about to receive and undertake. Before the conclusion of the service the minister shall declare publicly that this man and woman are now joined in marriage according to the ordinance of God and the law of the state. The service shall conclude with a benediction.

It is expected that the Shelocta Community Presbyterian Pastor/Moderator will officiate the wedding and other pastors can be invited with prior approval of the session of the Shelocta Church to participate in the marriage ceremony.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the Clerk of Session, Pamela Cavalier, at 724-726-5406, or the Pastor, Rev. Kathy Nice, at 724-354-2352.

The Session of the Shelocta Community Presbyterian Church

Revised and approved by the session on April 13, 2016.

Vows/Special Ceremonies: It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to negotiate the wedding ceremony with the pastor. This would include the format of the liturgy, the wedding vows, use of the unity candle, presence/absence of a sermon, and communion. Please note that if communion is desired, it must be made available to the attending congregation, not just the wedding couple, and the wedding party is responsible for insuring that there are sufficient elders present to serve.

Pre-marital Counseling: The number, content, and duration of the pre-marital counseling is at the discretion of the pastor. The session recommends that three (3) counseling sessions occur. It is the couple’s responsibility to negotiate with the pastor (typically it will be from 3 to 6 sessions). Prepare-Enrich system is the pastor’s preference in counseling methods which cost \$35.00 a couple.

Fees:	Non-member	Member
Pastoral Fee* (because of counseling)	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.00
Sanctuary (Wedding)	\$ 50.00	\$ 0.00
Organist/Pianist	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Custodian/Clean Up Fee	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Sound System Operator	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00

*When there is no pastor serving the church and the moderator is officiating at the wedding, the fee will be \$100 for members as well. This fee is standardized and set by the Presbytery.
Please be sure all fees are paid to the church one week prior to your wedding.

Photography: Videotaping from appropriate location that will not interfere with the solemnity of the ceremony is permitted. Photography during the ceremony is also permitted, but not flash photography.

Misc: In sending off the bride and groom, birdseed and/or bubbles are permitted outside of the building, but not rice.

Contacts:

Pastor	Rev. Kathy Nice	724-354-2352
Clerk of Session	Pamela Cavalier	724-726-5406
Church Secretary	Saundra Ghiardi	724-354-2352
Custodian	Agnes Brunner	724-479-0742
Sound System	Tim Johnston	724-726-9292
Organist/Pianist	Shirley Leisenring	724-726-5711

Wedding Information
Shelocta Community Presbyterian Church
Shelocta, PA 15774

Wedding License # _____ (added after issuance)

Groom: Name _____

Address _____

Birthday _____ **Phone** _____

Church Membership _____

Church Address _____

Pastor _____

Previous Marriage? _____ **If Divorced, when** _____

Bride: Name _____

Address _____

Birthday _____ **Phone** _____

Church Membership _____

Church Address _____

Pastor _____

Previous Marriage? _____ **If Divorced, when** _____

Future Address: _____

Future Church Membership: _____

Date of Wedding: _____ **Time:** _____ **Place:** _____

Dates of Counseling: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

_____ Time: _____ Place: _____

_____ Time: _____ Place: _____

_____ Time: _____ Place: _____

Date of Rehearsal: _____ Time: _____ Place: _____

Ring Ceremony: Double _____ Single _____

Organist _____ If ours, has she been contacted? _____

Will organist be at rehearsal? (preferred) _____

Name of selections _____

Soloist _____

Will soloist be at rehearsal? (preferred) _____

Florist _____

Will you need a kneeling bench? _____

Unity Candle or other addition to service? _____

Photographer _____

Attendants (Please note if any attendants are under the age of 6)
(All attendants need to be at rehearsal)

Best Man _____ Maid of Honor _____

Ushers _____ Attendants _____

Given in marriage by _____

Will the church fellowship hall be used? _____

If yes, caterer name _____

Reception location: _____

Will the church be preparing the bulletins? _____

Groom's Parents

Bride's Parents

_____ **Names** _____

_____ **Address** _____

_____ **Address** _____