

**Trinity Episcopal Church**  
211 Walnut Street  
Muscatine, Iowa 52761  
563-263-2177

### **Customary for Marriage**

#### **Requirements for Marriage in the Episcopal Church:**

Canon Law of the Episcopal Church states that: (A) The intention of the parties to contract marriage shall have been signified to the Member of the Clergy at least thirty days before the service of solemnization; (B) at least one of the parties has received Holy Baptism; (C) both parties have been instructed as to the nature, meaning, and purpose of Holy Matrimony by the Member of the Clergy (c) if either or both of the parties have been married before, permission to marry the couple must be obtained from the Bishop of Iowa.

The Rector interprets these canons to mean that the couple will participate in no less than three one-hour sessions of pre-marital counseling with the Rector. It is preferred that these sessions begin at least four months in advance of the wedding date.

The couple must confirm a wedding date with the Rector before it can be entered on the church calendar.

#### **Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage:**

An Episcopal Wedding is first and foremost a time of worship and the solemn exchange of vows. The Book of Common Prayer is our primary guide for worship and the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage. Within our tradition, there are several options and choices available. The couple and the Rector will make these decisions together.

#### **Music:**

Our organist has a large repertoire of sacred music and hymns appropriate for Episcopal weddings. He or she must be consulted to assist with musical selections. The Rector highly recommends that you use sacred music at your wedding and has the final approval of all music used.

The Organist of Trinity Parish is the “custodian” of our musical instruments. He or she will normally play for weddings. If another organist is being considered, please consult with the Rector and Trinity Organist first.

#### **Flowers:**

Any local florist may be used for floral arrangements. Please advise the Altar Guild as to the use of the flowers after the wedding. Many couples wish to have the flowers used the following Sunday in Thanksgiving for their marriage. Two vases are usually used—one on each side of the altar. Any additional flowers or pew decorations must be discussed with the Rector.

**Wedding Kneeler:**

A wedding pillow is available for the couple's use during the wedding service.

**Candles and Altar Vestments:**

Trinity has a full complement of Altar Candles. The Altar Guild directress can discuss this with you. The church lights can also be dimmed. We do not provide a wedding or unity candle – its use is not required or encouraged.

The liturgical color for weddings is white. The Altar Guild directress can discuss choice of white altar coverings with the couple.

**Fees:**

Customary fees for building use and services are listed below. These fees assume use of the building for no more than three hours on the wedding day. The fee for additional hours is \$50/hour. The couple must sign a building use agreement. At Trinity's discretion, a \$150.00 security deposit may be required in advance (refundable after the wedding).

Musicians are "private contractors" whose fees are set depending on amount of time for rehearsal and other factors.

|                    |                                     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Organist & soloist | (paid separately by wedding couple) |
| Sexton Fee         | \$100.00                            |
| Altar Guild        | \$100.00                            |
| Building Use       | \$300.00                            |

According to Canon Law, there is no fee for the service of a priest in any function performed in the name of the church. Any thank offering received for weddings will be deposited in the priest's discretionary account and used for charity and other non-budgeted requests made to the priest.

We hope this customary will aid you in guiding you. Please call if you have questions.