

WEDDING INFORMATION PACKET FOR:
PASTOR COREY JENKINS
AND THE SIDNEY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
7/1/2016

Dear Friends,

You have chosen to celebrate your marriage at the Sidney First United Methodist Church; therefore, my wish is to help you make this a joyous and satisfying occasion. The following guidelines have been prepared to aid in your planning. Please feel free to discuss with me any areas of concern that are not covered in this packet.

Sincerely,

Pastor Corey Jenkins

I. CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE:

Christian Marriage is a most Holy event. It makes a statement of faith of the Bride and Groom: of their faith in Jesus Christ and their obedience to His teachings.

The Christian Marriage is not to be entered into lightly. The couple must consider their walk of faith and how it relates to Biblical teaching. The Christian Marriage, though desired by most, is not right for everyone. The Christian Marriage is God's plan for those who profess Jesus Christ as Lord of their life and are living in accordance with His teachings.

In today's society, many people are being married by the Church and believe that they are receiving God's blessing on their marriage by doing so. God does wish for all men and women who desire to live together to be married. Though His blessing is not necessarily given to all who are married in a Church, His blessing does come from a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. As with all of God's blessings it requires obedience to His Word.

Many couples today are living together outside of marriage. This life-style grieves God and is contrary to His Word. Hebrews 13:4 says, "*Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.*"

Again in 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, "*It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his or her own body in a way that is holy and honorable, not in passionate lust like the heathen, who do not know God; and that in this matter no one should wrong his brother or sister or take advantage of them. The Lord will punish men and women for all such sins, as we have already told you and warned you. For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, the one who rejects this instruction does not reject humans but God, who gives you His Holy Spirit.*"

It is clearly stated in the Discipline of the United Methodist Church: "We affirm the sanctity of the marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman." (§ 116.c) Further, as the Pastor, I am charged with the following: "To perform the marriage ceremony after due counsel with the parties involved. The decision to perform the ceremony shall be the right and responsibility of the pastor." (§ 331.1.i)

As a part of God's Church, and as the Pastor of this United Methodist Church, I am instructed by God's Word to, "*Stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter*" (1 Thessalonians 2:15). In my understanding of God's Word, all marriages that are performed in the sanctuary of the Sidney First United Methodist Church should meet the following guidelines:

- a). Both Groom and Bride will be professing Christians: that Jesus Christ is Lord of their lives and their personal Savior.
- b). Both Groom and Bride will be regular attendees in a local church fellowship. Groom or Bride should be an attendee of the Sidney First United Methodist Church.
- c). The Groom and Bride should not be living together and/or profess to being sexually pure.
- d). The Groom and Bride will agree to attend counseling sessions with Pastor Corey or another appropriate counselor.

***NOTE: PASTOR COREY WILL BE GLAD TO WORK WITH YOU IN MEETING THESE REQUIREMENTS. DO NOT FEEL YOU ARE UNABLE TO BE MARRIED AT THE SIDNEY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH; IT IS OUR DEEPEST DESIRE TO BRING YOU INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TO SET YOUR MARRIAGE ON THE PROPER FOUNDATION – JESUS CHRIST!**

II. SECULAR MARRIAGE:

A secular marriage is a marriage that is recognized by the civil law of the country. This marriage is a legal union of one man and one woman.

Pastor Corey will gladly work with couples that wish to be married by a pastor in a civil ceremony, but he reserves the right to perform or decline the wedding in the church. The couple may still be required to attend counseling sessions with Pastor Corey or his appointee.

The use of the church facilities is available to the Groom and Bride, excluding the use of the sanctuary. The ceremony may be held in the church office, a classroom or in the Friendship Hall.

III. PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING:

In an effort to be of service to prospective wedding couples, and to be true to our calling to do all we can to aid in building Christ-centered marriages, the Sidney First United Methodist Church requires pre-marital counseling of all couples desiring to use the facilities of the Church in their wedding plans. As the pastor officiating the wedding, Pastor Corey will conduct the pre-marital counseling. If other arrangements are desired (alternate officiating pastor, alternate counseling, etc.), he must approve them.

In order to cover the cost of counseling and materials there is a counseling fee. Currently the fee for all pre-marital counseling is \$200.00. Unless other arrangements have been made, all counseling fees are to be paid prior to the first counseling session. Fees are not refundable. It is Pastor Corey's desire to be as helpful as possible, so a counseling schedule will be arranged for the convenience of both the couple and himself. Counseling sessions will be approximately 1 - 1½ hours in length and a minimum of 3-4 sessions will be required. The first step will require the engaged couple taking the Prepare/Enrich inventory assessment on-line, with the following counseling sessions to be determined according to available mutual dates between the engaged couple and Pastor Corey. Wedding planning for the actual ceremony will be at a separate planning session

In the continuing effort to encourage excellence and fidelity in marriage, completion of all "home-work" and attendance at all counseling sessions is highly recommended.

IV. COSTS:

Pastor Corey:

An honorarium of \$150.00 given directly to Pastor Corey before the ceremony is appropriate. (Consider the time spent with you in planning, rehearsal, and your wedding day. This is in addition to the counseling fee.)

If the wedding is to be an outdoor wedding, some of the requirements listed may become negotiable with Pastor Corey, however, an honorarium of \$150.00 given directly to him before the ceremony is still appropriate. (Consider the time spent with you in planning, rehearsal, mileage, and your wedding day.)

If there is to be another pastor you wish to do the actual wedding ceremony, you must give Pastor Corey that pastor's name and contact information; he will then invite that other pastor to do the wedding. Pastor Corey will need to be involved in some capacity in the wedding ceremony, so an honorarium of \$100 given directly to him is appropriate.

Organist/Accompanist:

An honorarium of \$100.00 is suggested for church supplied accompanist, and is to be given to them before the ceremony. (Consider the time he/she has spent in practice, rehearsal, and your wedding day.) Organists and/or accompanists from outside the United Methodist Church must visit with Pastor Corey about use of the church's organ and piano.

Vocalist/Soloist:

An honorarium of \$50.00 is suggested for church supplied vocalist/soloist and is to be given to them before the ceremony. (Consider the time he/she has spent in practice, rehearsal, and your wedding day.)

Sound Technician:

An honorarium of \$100.00 is required for a church supplied sound technician. This person is NOT an option, as only trained people will be allowed to use our sound equipment. This person is to be paid before the ceremony. (Consider the time he/she has spent in practice, rehearsal, and your wedding day.)

Video recording:

The church has the capability of recording your wedding for you. A CD can be made for you for \$100, and additional copies can be made for \$10 apiece. If you desire to have your own recording made, that is acceptable as well.

Sanctuary:

For members of the Sidney First United Methodist Church there will be no charge, however a \$100 donation is encouraged.

For non-members of the Sidney First United Methodist Church, the fee schedule as outlined in the Building Use Fees will be in effect.

Membership, as defined by the Parish, is anyone listed on the membership rolls. If your name does not appear on the membership rolls, you will be considered a non-member.

All fees are to be paid at the Church office 7 days prior to the rehearsal.

Reception Facility:

For members of the Sidney First United Methodist Church there will be no charge, however a \$100 donation is encouraged.

For non-members of the Sidney First United Methodist Church, the fee schedule as outlined in the Building Use Fees will be in effect.

Again, membership, as defined by the Parish, is anyone listed on the membership rolls. If your name does not appear on the membership rolls, you will be considered a non-member.

All fees are to be paid at the Church office 7 days prior to the rehearsal.

Deposit:

A \$200.00 deposit is required at the time of booking your wedding for reserving these facilities.

The church custodial fee is \$100, and the remaining \$100.00 may be returned to you after inspection of the church facilities and furnishings.

BUILDING USE FEES

Participating Members: (suggested)

- Facilities: \$ 100.00
- Fellowship Hall: \$ 75.00
- Facilities & Fellowship Hall: \$ 175.00

Non-Members: (required)

- Facilities: \$ 200.00
- Fellowship Hall: \$ 150.00
- Facilities & Fellowship Hall: \$ 350.00

V. GENERAL INSTRUCTION:

Please remember Christian stewardship in planning your wedding. The Church discourages ceremonies that are overly elaborate.

The marriage ceremony, when held in the sanctuary, will be a worship experience uniting two lives in God's presence. The music, therefore, should reflect this. All music must be cleared with Pastor Corey during regular counseling sessions.

Pastor Corey requests that flash pictures taken during the ceremony be done with discretion so as not to interfere with the dignity of the ceremony. Videotaping is permitted but please check with Pastor Corey about where the camera may be located.

Please instruct the ushers to prevent the throwing of rice, confetti, or birdseed inside the church building. (If something is tossed on the Groom and Bride, Pastor Corey recommends the use of rice or birdseed.)

The church's candelabra hold seven candles each, and the altar candelabra holds one candle each. If you will be using the church's candelabra, please plan to use dripless candles and a plastic drop-sheet to preserve our carpeting. In the case of a unity candle on the altar, a plastic drop-sheet or cover will also be used.

ABSOLUTELY NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PERMITTED ON CHURCH PROPERTY.

PASTOR COREY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CANCEL THE REHEARSAL AND/OR THE WEDDING ITSELF IF ANYONE IN THE WEDDING PARTY IS OBVIOUSLY INEBRIATED.

SMOKING IS PERMITTED OUTSIDE OF THE BUILDING ONLY.

PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN EACH MEMBER OF THE WEDDING PARTY IS AWARE OF THIS.

Please fill out and return the following form to Pastor Corey .

Please make your wedding plans as early as possible. A lead-time of six months is often necessary in order to secure the church facilities, and to finish all counseling requirements.

Saturday weddings may be scheduled at any hour, however, weekday weddings will not be scheduled later than 7:30pm unless special arrangements have been made with Pastor Corey, the organist, and the custodian. Sunday weddings are permissible, although Pastor Corey will set the time.

WEDDING INFORMATION SHEET

Woman's full name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Work _____ **Cell** _____ **Home** _____ **Age:** _____

Man's full name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Work _____ **Cell** _____ **Home** _____ **Age:** _____

Couple's address after the wedding: _____

Rehearsal date: _____ **Time** _____ **am pm**

Place: _____

Wedding date: _____ **Time** _____ **am pm**

Place: _____

Counseling dates: 1st _____ (Prepare/Enrich inventory)

 2nd _____

 3rd _____

 4th _____

 5th _____ (Wedding Planning)

Have you secured a marriage license? _____

Maid of Honor: _____

Best Man: _____

Bridesmaids: _____

Groomsmen: _____

Flower Girl: _____

Ring Bearer: _____

Who will give the bride away? _____

Ushers: _____

Organist: _____

Soloist(s): _____

Musical selections: _____

Florist: _____

Photographer: _____

Guest Book: _____

Gifts: _____

Wedding Coordinator: _____

Our signatures below signify that these guidelines and policies have been read and understood in full and we hereby covenant to abide by the same.

Groom

Bride

Pastor Corey

Date Deposit Received