

Wedding Policy for Non-Members* St. Matthew United Methodist Church

Thank you for your interest in a wedding at St. Matthew UMC.

We rejoice with you in your decision to seek to enter into a particular form of discipleship to Jesus Christ which is Christian Marriage. We are excited about the possibility that we might be able to serve as the community of faith who will surround you with Christian love and support with the goal of helping grow into this new and adventurous way of life!

It is because we understand Christian Marriage as part of what it means to follow Christ as Lord, and as integrally related to being a part of Christ's Church, that we require persons unrelated to St. Matthew to demonstrate an active interest in the life of our congregation before we can extend to them the ministry of Christian Marriage.

So, you are invited to join us for worship one Sunday morning as soon as you can. Please be sure to introduce yourselves to the Pastor before or following the service. He/she will want to then introduce you to others and help you begin to build relationships within the congregation. Our specific requirement is that you join us for worship *at least once a month* for the next 6 months after your first time with us.

After that 6-month period, let the Pastor know that you are interested in planning for a Service of Christian Marriage, and he/she will then be sure you are aware of all the policies of the church with regard to weddings and the associated fees. He/she will then want to arrange with you a series of at least 3 sessions of Premarital Counseling.

If you have any further questions, you may call the Church Office at 864-242-1966, or email the Church Administrator at swoods@stmatthewumc.net.

(*) A Non-Member is defined as: neither bride, nor groom, or the parents of either party are a Professing Member of St. Matthew UMC who has been regularly supporting the congregation's life and ministry according to the Membership Vows of "Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness."