

THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

THINGS TO REMEMBER (CHECK LIST)

- Thoroughly read the Good Shepherd wedding policy which can be picked up at the Church office or found at: www.goodshepherdkingwood.com
At Toolbar click on “Worship”
At Side Menu (bottom) click on “Weddings”
Click on “Wedding Booklet”
- Set an appointment time with a Member of the Clergy. Bring the following to your initial meeting.
 - Declaration of Intention (page 5)
 - Wedding Information Sheet (page 6)
 - Potential Dates which comply with Church Policy.
- Schedule Initial Meeting with Wedding Coordinator
 - Review Wedding Policies and Guidelines
 - Develop Initial Wedding Plan
 - Submit Deposit to fully reserve date on Parish Calendar
- Schedule appointment with Director of Music.
 - Bring Music Sheet (pages 23-24)
- Obtain Marriage License at appropriate time and bring to your rehearsal.
- Review policy statements with florist, photographer, videographer, and guest musician(s). It is essential that these persons understand and abide by our policy. Coordinate bulletins/programs with Parish Secretary (281-358-3154)
- Schedule Final Meeting with Wedding Coordinator: Finalize Plans
 - Rehearsal Needs
 - Final Payment



THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

KINGWOOD, TEXAS
281-358-3154

INTRODUCTION

The service of Holy Matrimony is a worship service. It is one of the most sacred rites which a Member of the Clergy performs under the ordination and the authority of the church. The service is limited to members of Good Shepherd who are communicants in good standing.

In order that you may have a sacred and dignified wedding, you are urged to make thorough preparations, spiritual as well as temporal. The Clergy, Wedding Guild and Staff of Good Shepherd wish to extend every possible assistance to you toward the end that your wedding in the church will be a memorable experience.

Therefore, serious study and careful judgments have gone into the preparation of the church's wedding policies and regulations. They are the result of many years of experience with weddings on the part of the Clergy, the Staff, and the parish. They have been reviewed and approved and have become the official policies and procedures related to weddings and wedding receptions. They are not here to create difficulties for you, but to ensure that your wedding is as beautiful and meaningful as possible. You are urged to read the following material carefully and cooperate fully with the Rector of Good Shepherd Church in upholding the high standards set forth herein. You are responsible for becoming familiar with this policy and will be expected to comply with the policies and regulations contained in it. If you have any questions concerning the policy, please feel free to discuss with your Wedding Coordinator.

For the purposes of this policy manual, the words "Member of the Clergy" shall refer to the officiating Member of the Clergy of The Episcopal Church Good Shepherd. The word church, uncapitalized, shall refer to the large sanctuary. The word chapel shall refer to the small chapel located off of the nave of the main church.

SETTING THE DATE

Weddings are provided for a fee to members of The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Kingwood. The member may be the Bride, Groom, Parents or Grandparents and must be a “communicant in good standing.” A communicant in good standing is defined as those, “...who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God...” This Wedding ministry will include marriage counseling and presiding at the ceremony by a Member of the Clergy, planning and support from Wedding Guild, direction and participation from Support Teams.

In addition, at least one of the couple must be baptized in the Christian faith.

A reservation on the Parish Calendar will be confirmed when all of the following conditions have been met.

1. A Member of the Clergy staff has agreed to officiate at the wedding.
2. A family member of the couple is a communicant in good standing at Good Shepherd.
3. The scheduling guidelines (found elsewhere in this section) have been met.
4. The WEDDING INFORMATION sheet has been signed by both the bride and the groom and turned into the church office.
5. All necessary deposits, , have been paid.

The exact hour of the rehearsal and wedding must be fixed at the time the worship space is reserved. This is necessary to avoid conflicts between your wedding and any other church event.

WEDDING DATES SHALL NOT BE ANNOUNCED UNTIL the date has been fully approved and reserved. This is to reduce to a minimum the possibility of misunderstanding or error on the part of any of the persons involved. However, tentative dates may be cleared by telephone. Clergy must have at least thirty (30) days’ notice to officiate at any wedding. All persons wishing to be married in the church are required to complete a pre-marital counseling process. If either or both parties are divorced, there are specific canons of the Episcopal Church and policies of the Bishop of Texas that apply. Not all requests will be approved. When requesting remarriages following a divorce, it is imperative that the Clergy consult with one or both parties to be married. It may take forty-five days to get the necessary approvals from the bishop’s office.



RESTRICTED DATES

WEDDINGS WILL NOT BE SCHEDULED DURING LENT OR ON SUNDAYS. Also, because of difficulties in securing adequate help, we do not schedule wedding rehearsals, weddings, or wedding receptions at the following times:

New Year's Eve / Day
Christmas Eve / Day
Easter weekend

If these days fall adjacent to weekends, the weekend should be avoided as well. Weddings will not be scheduled during the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Certain other days may not be available for weddings due to conflicts in the church calendar.

No evening weddings shall be scheduled to begin later than 7:00 p.m.; and Saturday weddings with receptions at the church, no later than 5:00 p.m. The rehearsal is normally scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on the day preceding the wedding ceremony. Exceptions may be made due to church schedule conflicts or other factors. This exception must be approved by the Clergy and Wedding Guild member.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
KINGWOOD, TEXAS

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We,

and

desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

We believe that the union of husband and wife, in heart, body, and mind, is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help hereto.

Signature of Groom _____

Signature of Bride (Maiden Name) _____

Dated _____ A.D. _____



The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd
Wedding Information Form

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____ [] Church [] Chapel
Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____ Eucharist: [] YES [] NO
Number of Guests: _____
Officiating Clergy: _____ Guest Clergy: _____

Bride's Name: _____ Groom's Name: _____

Marital Status: _____ Marital Status: _____
Single Divorced Widowed Single Divorced Widowed
Address: _____ Address: _____

Phone: cell: _____ Phone: cell: _____
hm: _____ hm: _____

Email: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____ Place of Birth: _____

Children: _____ Children: _____
Current Religious Affiliation: _____ Current Religious Affiliation: _____

Baptized [] Denomination _____ Baptized [] Denomination _____

Confirmed [] Denomination _____ Confirmed [] Denomination _____

Communicant [] Denomination _____ Communicant [] Denomination _____

Parent's full name: _____ Parent's full name: _____
Father: _____ Father: _____
Mother _____ Mother _____
(Maiden): _____ (Maiden): _____
Address: _____ Address: _____
Phone: _____ Phone: _____

We have read the Wedding Customary of The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd and agree to abide by the provisions contained therein.

Signature of the Bride

Signature of the Groom



Photographer: _____ Phone: _____ Arrival Time: _____

Florist: _____ Phone _____ Arrival Time: _____

Attendants:

Ring Bearer? Age _____ Flower Girl? Age _____

Number of Bridesmaids: _____ Names of Bridesmaids: _____

Number of Groomsmen: _____ Names of Groomsmen _____

Number of Ushers: _____ Name of Ushers _____

Scripture Readings: (see page 426 in the BCP) _____

Music:

Hymns:

Solos:

Wedding Guild Attendant(s): _____

Family Concerns _____

Notes: _____

THE CEREMONY

The wedding ceremony is the official Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage of the Episcopal Church beginning on page 423 in *The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*. Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God. In the Episcopal Church it is required that one, at least, of the parties must be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conform to the laws of the State and the canons of this Church. The marriage liturgy reflects our theology of marriage. For this reason we do not allow couples to write their own vows. The use of a unity candle (or other similar symbol) is not part of our tradition and may not be used in the wedding ceremony.

Holy Communion may be celebrated in connection with the wedding. It is not appropriate to celebrate Holy Communion with the context of the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage unless a general invitation to all baptized Christians present can be extended.

There are suggested readings for the ceremony in the Book of Common Prayer. Alternative readings must be approved by the clergy. All scripture will be read from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

If a worship bulletin or program is to be used, it must be approved by the clergy before it is printed. The church can offer some sample programs for review, but we do not prepare or print programs.

The consumption of alcoholic beverages is not permitted by members of the wedding party before or during the rehearsal or the wedding. Other than that approved for the reception, no alcohol is allowed on church property. This includes the parking lots and vehicles parked on church property. Members of the wedding party violating these rules will not be allowed to participate in the wedding.

A valid marriage license must be in possession of the clergy before the service can be held.

If children are to be a part of the wedding party, and are younger than age 5, permission from the Celebrant is needed. It should be understood that the roles of the flower girl(s) and ring bearer(s) are strictly symbolic. Flower girls are not to scatter flower petals (real or imitation) in the aisle and any rings attached to the ring bearer's pillow should be imitations. The actual rings should be in the keeping of the best man and maid/matron of honor. Aisle runners are not to be used.

GUEST MINISTERS

Ordained clergy from another Episcopal Church or another denomination are welcome to participate in the Service of Christian Marriage, upon invitation of the Rector. There are canonical limitations as to what non-Episcopal clergy may do. A Member of Good Shepherd's clergy staff shall conduct the rehearsal, preside at the wedding, and shall be considered the final authority in the conduct and content of these ceremonies.

Clergy will wear vestments in all weddings. Clergy participating in the wedding ceremonies may wear the clerical vestments of his/her church, or Good Shepherd will be happy to furnish a white robe and white stole.

THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

(Page 423)

At the time appointed, the persons to be married, with their witnesses, assemble in the church or some other appropriate place. During their entrance, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played. Then the Celebrant, facing the people and the persons to be married, with the woman to the right and the man to the left, addresses the congregation and says

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union *N.N.* and *N.N.* now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

Then the Celebrant says to the persons to be married

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

The Declaration of Consent

The Celebrant says to the woman

N., will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The Woman answers

I will.

The Celebrant says to the man

N., will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The Man answers

I will.

The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

People We will.

If there is to be a presentation or a giving in marriage, it takes place at this time. A hymn, psalm, or anthem may follow.

The Ministry of the Word

The Celebrant then says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Then one or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. If there is to be a Communion, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings. Click on each link below to view scripture.

[Genesis 1:26-28](#) (Male and female he created them)

[Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24](#) (A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh)

[Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7](#) (Many waters cannot quench love)

[Tobit 8:5b-9](#) (That she and I may grow old together)

[1 Corinthians 13:1-13](#) (Love is patient and kind)

[Ephesians 3:14-19](#) (The Father from whom ever family is named)

[Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33](#) (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)

[Colossians 3:12-17](#) (Love which binds everything together in harmony)

[1 John 4:7-16](#) (Let us love one another for love is of God)

Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sing or said. Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128. When a passage from the Gospel is to be read, all stand, and the Deacon or Minister appointed says

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Matthew 5:1-10](#) (The Beatitudes)

[Matthew 5:13-16](#) (You are the light...Let your light so shine)

[Matthew 7:21,24-29](#) (Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock)

[Mark 10:6-9,13-16](#) (They are no longer two but one)

[John 15:9-12](#) (Love one another as I have loved you)

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A homily or other response to the Readings may follow.

THE MARRIAGE

The Man, facing the woman and taking her right hand in his, says

In the Name of God, I, *N.*, take you, *N.*, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Then they loose their hands, and the Woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says

In the Name of God, I, *N.*, take you, *N.*, to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

They loose their hands.

The Priest may ask God's blessing on a ring or rings as follows

Bless, O Lord, *this ring* to be *a sign* of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says

N., I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (*or* in the Name of God).

Then the Celebrant joins the right hands of husband and wife and says

Now that *N.* and *N.* have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring, I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

People Amen.

THE PRAYERS

All standing, the Celebrant says

Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

If Communion is to follow, the Lord's Prayer may be omitted here.

The Deacon or other person appointed reads the following prayers, to which the People respond, saying, Amen. If there is not to be a communion, one or more of the prayers may be omitted.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony. *Amen.*

Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. *Amen.*

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life. *Amen.*

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. *Amen.*

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. *Amen.*

Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you. *Amen.*

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. *Amen.*

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. *Amen.*

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your Son, and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING OF THE MARRIAGE

The people remain standing. The husband and wife kneel, and the Priest says one of the following prayers

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of man and woman in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon this man and this woman. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

or this

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The husband and wife still kneeling, the Priest adds this blessing

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

The Celebrant may say to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

The newly married couple then greet each other, after which greetings may be exchanged throughout the congregation.

When Communion is not to follow, the wedding party leaves the church. A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

AT THE EUCHARIST

The liturgy then continues with the Offertory, at which the newly married couple may present the offerings of bread and wine.

Preface of Marriage

At the Communion, it is appropriate that the newly married couple receive Communion first, after the ministers.

In place of the usual postcommunion prayer, the following is said

O God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious: We give you thanks for binding us together in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that by your Holy Spirit, *N. and N.*, now joined in Holy Matrimony, may become one in heart and soul, live in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

At this point it is customary to introduce the Bride and Groom to the congregation.

Dismissal:	Celebrant	Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
	Response	Thanks be to God.

As the wedding party leaves the church, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE PASSAGES FOR THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

Brides and grooms should pick three scriptures: One from the Old Testament, One from the New Testament, and one from the Gospels.

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’

Genesis 2:4-9,15-24

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

And the LORD God commanded the man, ‘You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.’

Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’ So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made

into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Song 2:10-13;8:6-7

¹⁰My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; ¹¹for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. ¹²The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. ¹³The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. ⁶Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. ⁷Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

Tobit 8:5b-8 (New English Bible)

Tobias said to Sarah: "We praise thee, O God of our fathers, we praise thy name for ever and ever. Let the heavens and all thy creation praise thee for ever. Thou madest Adam, and Eve his wife to be his helper and support; and those two were the parents of the human race. This was thy word: 'It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a helper like him.' I now take this my beloved to wife, not out of lust but in true marriage. Grant that she and I may find mercy and grow old together." They both said "Amen," and slept through the night.

NEW TESTAMENT

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

13 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end.

¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 3:14-19

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 5:1-2,21-33

5 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

21 Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²²Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. ³²This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. ³³Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Colossians 3:12-17

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 John 4:7-16

7 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

GOSPELS

Matthew 5:1-10

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ^a ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: ³'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. ⁷'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. ⁸'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. ⁹'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. ¹⁰'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Matthew 5:13-16

13 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 7:21,24-29

21 'Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. ²⁴Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. ²⁵The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell--and great was its fall!' ²⁸Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, ²⁹for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Mark 10:6-9,13-16

⁶But from the beginning of creation, “God made them male and female.” ⁷“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.” So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.’
¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.’
¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

John 15:9-12

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²‘This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

MUSIC

The purpose of the music in a wedding ceremony, like the ceremony itself, is to glorify God. The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd insists upon music that is in good taste, is theologically sound, and is suitable for a service of Christian worship. For example, pieces such as “Here Comes the Bride” and the wedding march from “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” are not used. Music that might be proper during the reception may be unsuitable in the service itself. Likewise, solos that may have beautiful sentiments or which may be currently popular are not necessarily acceptable in a Christian wedding.

In particular, most secular “love songs” are not appropriate for a service of Christian worship, as they emphasize the love of two people without consideration of God’s love. Even such innocent phrases as “You’re the only one I need ...” can become objectionable in the context of Christian worship.

In general, the “Sunday Morning Worship” rule prevails: if a piece of music is of the type one might expect to hear in Sunday morning worship in an Episcopal Church, then it is probably suitable for the wedding service; if not, then something else should be chosen. If you desire musical selections that are meaningful to you, but inappropriate for the wedding service, you may wish to have them sung and/or played at your reception where you can enjoy them.

PLEASE CHECK WITH THE ORGANIST BEFORE MAKING ANY FINAL DECISIONS ABOUT THE MUSIC FOR YOUR WEDDING!

The Rector of The Episcopal Church Good Shepherd is in charge of all liturgy and music. This duty is delegated to the Organist of Good Shepherd for **all** weddings. In the event of a schedule conflict, the Organist will arrange for a qualified substitute. The bride or the bride and groom need to schedule a conference with the Organist to select music. This conference should be held as soon as possible after you have had your first conference with a Member of the Clergy. The farther in advance of the wedding that this conference is held, then more options will be available for your wedding music. You are asked not to bring friends, other family members, or other musicians to this conference. This is almost never helpful, and usually only complicates your decision.

You will need to complete and bring the Music Data Sheet, found on page 26, with you to this conference. **PLEASE DO NOT MAKE ANY FINAL MUSIC DECISIONS OR ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE THIS CONFERENCE!** This will help to avoid possible confusion and disappointment. All decisions regarding music for the marriage service must be made no later than one week prior to the wedding.

The Organist of Good Shepherd is well trained and experienced in providing music for the marriage service. Your suggestions are welcomed. You may be assured that through cooperative efforts, good choices will be made which will enhance the service and respect the guidelines of good taste and solid theology.

If a soloist is to participate, please discuss this with the Organist before making final plans. The Organist will be happy to recommend an excellent soloist to you, or you may use a guest soloist of



your own choosing. Soloists are expected to be competent singers. Please bear in mind that relatives, co-workers, or friends, for all their good intentions, may not be your best choice as a soloist. Close family members in particular, because of the emotions involved, frequently have difficulty performing at their best.

Soloists should know their music prior to the rehearsal with the Organist. It is the Organist's responsibility to accompany the soloist, not to rehearse the soloist in unfamiliar music. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom or the soloist to supply solo music to both the soloist and the Organist, unless other arrangements are made. The Organist has copies of some of the most frequently sung solos. In those cases, only the soloist will need the music. Please check this with the Organist.

PHOTOCOPYING MUSIC IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW! SOLOISTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO SING WITH PHOTOCOPIES MUSIC, WITHER FOR THE SOLOIST OR THE ORGANIST!

It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to furnish the soloist and guest musicians(s) with a copy of the "Instructions for Guest Musicians" (found on page 33????). If you need additional copies of this sheet, please contact the Parish Office.

Guest musicians who will be part of the ceremony must attend the rehearsal in order to participate in the marriage service.

If the congregation is large enough and of a Christian background, it is entirely fitting to use a congregational hymn during the wedding ceremony. A list of appropriate hymns can be found on page 18??? of this booklet. The organist will be happy to advise you in your selection.

No recorded music will be permitted in the wedding ceremony for any reason.

MUSIC FEES

Fees for Organist is included in payment to Good Shepherd. However, Soloists fees should be arranged individually with the soloist(s).



MUSIC DATA SHEET
FOR
THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE
the EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
KINGWOOD, TEXAS

*Please complete the shaded portion of this form and bring it to your conference with the Organist.
PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE!*

Date of Wedding _____	Time _____
Date of Rehearsal _____	Time _____
Bride's Name _____	Groom's Name _____
Home Telephone _____	Home Telephone _____
Cell Telephone _____	Cell Telephone _____
Email _____	Email _____
Officiating Member of the Clergy _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Church Wedding	<input type="checkbox"/> Chapel Wedding
Will there be a soloist? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO If yes:	
Soloist's Name _____	
Home Telephone _____	Cell Telephone _____
Will there be an instrumentalist? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO If yes:	
Instrumentalist's Name _____	
Home Telephone _____	Cell Telephone _____

Entry Procession _____

_____ Last _____

Exit Procession _____

Solos

Location

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

Hymns

Location

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

Pre-Service

Post-Service

Notes

**SUGGESTED HYMNS
FOR
THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE**

HYMN #	COMMON TITLES OF HYMNS
365	Come, Thou Almighty King
410	Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
376	Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
618	Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones
680	O God, Our Help in Ages Past
408	Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
645,646	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
390	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
477	All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine
488	Be Thou My Vision
516	Come Down, O Love Divine
581	Where Charity and Love Prevail
518	Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
353	Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here
392	COME, WE THAT LOVE THE LORD

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SOLOISTS AND GUEST MUSICIANS

The wedding is a worship service; therefore all aspects of the wedding should reflect this. The purpose of the music in a wedding ceremony, like the ceremony itself, is to glorify God. Good Shepherd insists upon music that is in good taste, is theologically sound, and is suitable for the Christian worship service. Music that might be proper during the reception may be unsuitable in the sanctuary. Likewise, solos that may have beautiful sentiments or may be currently popular are necessarily acceptable in a Christian wedding.

In particular, most secular “love songs” are not appropriate for a service of Christian worship, as they emphasize the love of two people without consideration of God’s love. Even such innocent phrases as “You’re the only one I need...” can become objectionable in the context of Christian worship.

In general, the “Sunday Morning Worship” rule prevails: if a piece of music is of the type one might expect to hear in Sunday morning worship in an Episcopal church, then it is probably suitable for the wedding service; if not, then something else should be chosen. No final decisions should be made before consultation with the organist. The church accepts no responsibility for inconvenience and / or disappointment resulting from failure to comply with this policy.

Soloists should know their music prior to rehearsal with the Organist. It is the Organist’s responsibility to accompany the soloist, not to rehearse the soloist in unfamiliar music. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom or the soloist to supply solo music to both the soloist and the Organist, unless other arrangements are made. The organist has copies of some of the most frequently sung solos, in those cases, only the soloist will need the music. Please check this with the Organist.

PHOTOCOPYING MUSIC IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW! SOLOISTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO SING WITH PHOTOCOPIED MUSIC, EITHER FOR THE SOLOIST OR THE ORGANIST!

If the Lord’s Prayer is to be sung, it will follow the Lord’s Prayer spoken by the congregation at the appropriate point in the service.

Guest musicians must attend the wedding rehearsal in order to participate in the wedding ceremony.

No recorded music will be used in the wedding ceremony for any reason.

The Rector of The Episcopal Church Good Shepherd is in charge of all music for the liturgy. He has delegated that duty to the Organist in the case of music for all weddings. Please contact the Organist as soon as possible after the bride and groom engage your services. Any questions you may have regarding these instructions can be answered at that time.

Please give this sheet to your Soloist and / or Guest Musicians

**THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
KINGWOOD, TEXAS**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SOLOISTS AND GUEST MUSICIANS

The wedding is a worship service; therefore all aspects of the wedding should reflect this. The purpose of the music in a wedding ceremony, like the ceremony itself, is to glorify God. Good Shepherd insists upon music that is in good taste, is theologically sound, and is suitable for the Christian worship service. Music that might be proper during the reception may be unsuitable in the sanctuary. Likewise, solos that may have beautiful sentiments or may be currently popular are necessarily acceptable in a Christian wedding.

In particular, most secular ‘love songs’ are not appropriate for a service of Christian worship, as they emphasize the love of two people without consideration of God’s love. Even such innocent phrases as “You’re the only one I need...” can become objectionable in the context of Christian worship.

In general, the “Sunday Morning Worship” rule prevails: if a piece of music is of the type one might expect to hear in Sunday morning worship in an Episcopal church, then it is probably suitable for the wedding service; if not, then something else should be chosen. No final decisions should be made before consultation with the organist. The church accepts no responsibility for inconvenience and / or disappointment resulting from failure to comply with this policy.

Soloists should know their music prior to rehearsal with the Organist. It is the Organist’s responsibility to accompany the soloist, not to rehearse the soloist in unfamiliar music. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom or the soloist to supply solo music to both the soloist and the Organist, unless other arrangements are made. The organist has copies of some of the most frequently sung solos, in those cases, only the soloist will need the music. Please check this with the Organist.

PHOTOCOPYING MUSIC IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL LAW! SOLOISTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO SING WITH PHOTOCOPIED MUSIC, EITHER FOR THE SOLOIST OR THE ORGANIST!

If the Lord’s Prayer is to be sung, it will follow the Lord’s Prayer spoken by the congregation at the appropriate point in the service.



Every guest musician will wear a vestment furnished by the church. These may be secured through the Organist. Guest musicians who will be a part of the processional music must attend the wedding rehearsal in order to participate in the wedding ceremony.

No recorded music will be used in the wedding ceremony for any reason.

The Rector of Good Shepherd is in charge of all music for the liturgy. He has delegated that duty to the Organist in the case of music for all weddings. Please contact the Organist as soon as possible after the bride and groom engage your services. Any questions you may have regarding these instructions can be answered at that time.



SUPPORT, ADORNMENT, FLOWERS AND PHOTOGRAPHY

THE WEDDING COORDINATOR

A member of the Wedding Guild of Good Shepherd will be assigned to your wedding and will be available to answer your questions and assist at the rehearsal and at the wedding. No other wedding consultant is necessary! You may secure an outside wedding consultant, but that person should not plan to participate in the rehearsal or the wedding ceremony. The Clergy and Wedding Guild of Good Shepherd are in charge of the rehearsal and of the wedding. It is the bride's responsibility to furnish any outside wedding consultant with a copy of this policy, which that person is responsible for reading and following.

The Wedding Coordinator can open the church for dressing and photography as early as 3 hours before the wedding ceremony.

ADORNMENTS FOR THE CHURCH OR CHAPEL

The basic furnishings of the sanctuary are to remain in place. If there are any questions concerning the adornments, the bride and groom will discuss this with the Wedding Guild representatives assigned to their wedding. Please note that at certain times of the year, particularly (but not only) during the month of December, there will be extra decorations in the sanctuary. These likewise are to remain in place. Because of our experience with logistical and space restriction difficulties, aisle runners and aisle candles are not used at Good Shepherd. Under no circumstances will the pews be blocked from either end, nor will access to the center aisle be restricted.

Care should be used in the decoration of candelabra to avoid damage to the equipment and to minimize the risk of fire. Candelabra should not be placed in front of the pulpit or lectern. If you have questions about the placement of candelabra, please ask the Member of the Clergy, the Staff, or a member of the Wedding Guild.

The altar hangings (colored hanging for the altar, pulpit, and lectern) are white for the marriage service. Altar flowers are usually left for use during the Sunday services. This subject is covered in greater detail in the "Instruction for the Florist".

Members of the wedding party, florists, photographers, etc., may have access to the church facilities three hours before the time of the wedding. Please do not arrange for deliveries to be made before this time unless specific arrangements have been made with the Parish Office. Florists and photographers need to be finished in the church or chapel and be clear of those rooms no later than one hour prior to the start of the marriage service.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

Tuxedos, dresses, flowers, etc., delivered to the church prior to the wedding should be in the keeping of a representative of the wedding party. The church does not have the storage facilities available to

keep any of these items overnight and cannot, under any circumstances, assume responsibility for them. The church likewise cannot assume any responsibility for personal items while at the church.

Wedding parties are requested to be especially careful that all personal items are removed from the rooms in which they dress. These rooms will be used for church functions the next day and should be left as neat as possible.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR:

THE FLORIST
THE PHOTOGRAPHER
THE VIDEOGRAPHER
SOLOISTS AND GUEST MUSICIANS

The instructions can be found within this booklet. It is the responsibility of the bride and the groom to review these instructions themselves and with their Florist, Photographer, Videographer, and Musician(s) in making plans for the wedding and reception, so that there will be no misunderstanding or deviation from these established rules and policies. Each of these instruction sheets is provided in duplicate – one for the specific professional involved, and one for the bride and groom to retain as a reference. If you need additional copies of these sheets, please contact the Parish Office. The church accepts no responsibility for inconvenience and/or disappointment resulting from failure to comply with these policies. The bride and groom **MUST** give copies of these instructions to the Florist, Photographer, Videographer, and Musician(s), even if they have done weddings at Good Shepherd before!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FLORIST

The wedding is a worship service; therefore all aspects of the wedding should reflect this. These guidelines for the florist are established by the Rector to help maintain the sacred integrity of The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage in Good Shepherd Church.

The basic adornments of the sanctuary are to remain in place. No change may occur without the consent of the Member of the Clergy or the Wedding Guild representative assigned to the wedding. Decorations pertaining to the congregation's observance of certain seasons will not be removed or altered to accommodate weddings. Artificial flowers or plants are not allowed.

The usual placement of floral arrangements in the church is on either side of the cross on the retable and / or stands at the sides of the altar. Good Shepherd has several options for containers in which floral arrangements may be placed to accomplish these basic adornments. Florists may pick up the vases ahead of time provided arrangements are made through the Wedding Guild and Parish Office. If floral arrangements are desired in the Chapel, they should be placed on stands beside the altar. Floral arrangements may not be placed on or over the Altar Table, or the altar rail. Floral arrangements should not be placed in front of the Pulpit or Lectern. If there is any question about the placements of flowers, the Wedding Guild representative should be contacted.

The florist should check with the Wedding Guild representative on placement of any candles. Only the regular altar candles shall be placed on the altar.. Office (seven branch) candles are to be lighted first before any other candles. The two sacramental candles on the altar are not to be lighted unless there is to be a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. “Unity candles” are not used at Good Shepherd.

THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS TO ATTACH BOWS AND FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS TO THE ENDS OF THE PEWS: WITH PADDED PEW CLIPS OR BY TYING THEM ON WITH RIBBON

Decorations attached in any other way **WILL BE REMOVED** by a representative of the church, **NO TAPE, THUMB TACKS, NAILS, WIRE, STAPLES, PINS, FLORAL CLAY, SPRAY ADHESIVES, or SCREWS** are to be used to attach decorations to furniture, walls, floors, or any other part of the church or chapel. Under no circumstances will the pews be blocked from either end, nor will access to the center aisle be restricted. Scented aerosol sprays are not to be used. Aisle candles and aisle runners are not to be used at Good Shepherd. Altar flowers are usually left in place for use in Sunday services. All other decorations shall be promptly removed by the florist or someone from the wedding party immediately after the ceremony. The florist and the wedding party shall leave the church in the same condition in which it was found. This, of course, does not include the routine custodial cleanup, which the church will provide.

The florist shall be required to contact the church office well in advance to set the time of delivery of the flowers and to review these guidelines. The church reserves the right to refuse to allow floral decorations which are not in harmony with these policies. The florist assumes full responsibility for any damage to the church buildings and / or furnishings resulting from the florist’s handling or placement of flowers, candles or other decorations.

The florist is expected to comply with any instructions given by the Member of the Clergy or Staff of the church. Failure to comply with written or verbal instructions may result in a request that the florist cease work and leave the church immediately, and may result in the florist being prohibited from exercising professional services at Good Shepherd in the future. The church accepts no responsibility for any inconvenience and / or disappointment resulting from any departure from this policy!

Please give this sheet to your Florist

**THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
KINGWOOD, TEXAS**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FLORIST

The wedding is a worship service; therefore all aspects of the wedding should reflect this. These guidelines for the florist are established by the Rector to help maintain the sacred integrity of The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage in Good Shepherd Church.

The basic adornments of the sanctuary are to remain in place. No change may occur without the consent of the Member of the Clergy or the Wedding Guild representative assigned to the wedding. Decorations pertaining to the congregation's observance of certain seasons will not be removed or altered to accommodate weddings. Artificial flowers or plants are not allowed.

The usual placement of floral arrangements in the church is on either side of the cross on the retable and / or stands at the sides of the altar. Good Shepherd has several options for containers in which floral arrangements may be placed to accomplish these basic adornments. Florists may pick up the vases ahead of time provided arrangements are made through the Wedding Guild and Parish Office. Arrangements placed on the stands should not be too top-heavy or they will tip. The floor in the altar area is quite hard. Fragile containers will break if they fall. If one floral arrangement is desired in the Chapel, it should be placed on a stand beside the altar. Floral arrangements may not be placed on or over the Altar Table, the organ console, or the altar rail. Floral arrangements should not be placed in front of the Pulpit or Lectern. If there is any question about the placements of flowers, the Wedding Guild representative should be contacted.

The florist should check with the Wedding Guild representative on placement of the candles. No candles shall be placed on the altar, the organ console, the piano, the altar rail, or the choir screen. Plastic must be placed under all candelabra to keep the wax from marring the carpet or floor. Office (seven branch) candles are to be lighted first before any other candles. The two sacramental candles on the altar are not to be lighted unless there is to be a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. "Unity candles" are not used at Good Shepherd.

THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS TO ATTACH BOWS AND FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS TO THE ENDS OF THE PEWS: WITH PADDED PEW CLIPS OR BY TYING THEM ON WITH RIBBON



Decorations attached in any other way **WILL BE REMOVED** by a representative of the church, **NO TAPE, THUMB TACKS, NAILS, WIRE, STAPLES, PINS, FLORAL CLAY, SPRAY ADHESIVES, or SCREWS** are to be used to attach decorations to furniture, walls, floors, or any other part of the church or chapel. Under no circumstances will the pews be blocked from either end, nor will access to the center aisle be restricted. Scented aerosol sprays are not to be used. Aisle candles and aisle runners are not to be used at Good Shepherd. The Member of the Clergy, organist, and soloist will be wearing vestments and will not need a boutonniere or corsage.

Altar flowers are usually left in place for use in Sunday services. All other decorations shall be promptly removed by the florist immediately after the ceremony. The florist and the wedding party shall leave the church in the same condition in which it was found. This, of course, does not include the routine custodial cleanup, which the church will provide.

The florist shall be required to contact the church office well in advance to set the time of delivery of the flowers and to review these guidelines. The church reserves the right to refuse to allow floral decorations which are not in harmony with these policies. The florist assumes full responsibility for any damage to the church buildings and / or furnishings resulting from the florist's handling or placement of flowers, candles or other decorations.

The florist is expected to comply with any instructions given by the Member of the Clergy or Staff of the church. Failure to comply with written or verbal instructions may result in a request that the florist cease work and leave the church immediately, and may result in the florist being prohibited from exercising professional services at Good Shepherd in the future. The church accepts no responsibility for any inconvenience and / or disappointment resulting from any departure from this policy!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Since the wedding ceremony is a religious service, all photographers (amateur and professional) are asked to show reverence for the ceremony and the place. Friends and family members are also requested to observe these rules. The following guidelines for the photographer are established by the Rector to help retain the liturgical integrity of The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage in Good Shepherd Church.

The photographer may take pictures before or after the ceremony in any part of the building. Pictures taken in the church or chapel before the ceremony must be completed and all equipment removed from that place no less than one hour before the time of the wedding.

The photographer is permitted to take pictures of the church from the Balcony; however, no flash shall be used after the bride starts down the aisle. No pictures shall be made during the ceremony, except a maximum of three time exposures from the Balcony. Attendants' pictures may be taken in the Narthex before the procession begins. The photographer is cautioned to make sure that no noise is involved in the making of time exposures, changing of film, etc. during the ceremony.

Pictures are permissible during the recessional. The photographer may stand outside the Narthex doorway, leading from the church, for these pictures. Please note that this does not mean inside the church. The photographer is cautioned not to block the way of those who are processing out. The bridal party may reassemble in the church or chapel after the ceremony and re-pose for any parts of the ceremony twenty minutes is adequate time for after-ceremony photographs. It is important that the photography time be as brief as possible in order that the wedding party can arrive at the reception promptly to greet their guests. The bride and groom can facilitate this process by providing the photographer with a detailed list of desired poses and encouraging the members of the wedding party to be as attentive and cooperative as possible.

The photographer is cautioned about marring furniture by standing on pews or by placing camera equipment on the pews or furniture in the building. The photographer will be held responsible for any damage so caused.

The photographer must wear appropriate clothing for worship. This shall be understood to mean a coat and tie for gentlemen and comparable attire for ladies.

The photographer is expected to comply with any instructions given by the Member of the Clergy, Wedding Guild, or Staff of the church. Failure to comply with written or verbal instructions may result in a request that the photographer cease taking pictures and leave the church immediately, and may result in the photographer being prohibited from exercising professional services at Good Shepherd in the future. The church accepts no responsibility for inconvenience and/or disappointment resulting from failure to comply with this policy.

Please give this sheet to your Photographer

**THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
KINGWOOD, TEXAS**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHER

Since the wedding ceremony is a religious service, all photographers (amateur and professional) are asked to show reverence for the ceremony and the place. Friends and family members are also requested to observe these rules. The following guidelines for the photographer are established by the Rector to help retain the liturgical integrity of The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage in Good Shepherd Church.

The photographer may take pictures before or after the ceremony in any part of the building. Pictures taken in the church or chapel before the ceremony must be completed and all equipment removed from that place no less than thirty minutes before the time of the wedding.

The photographer is permitted to take pictures of the church from the Balcony; however, no flash shall be used after the bride starts down the aisle. No pictures shall be made during the ceremony, except a maximum of three time exposures from the Balcony. Attendants' pictures may be taken in the Narthex before the procession begins. The photographer is cautioned to make sure that no noise is involved in the making of time exposures, changing of film, etc. during the ceremony.

Pictures are permissible during the recessional. The photographer may stand outside the Narthex doorway, leading from the church, for these pictures. Please note that this does not mean inside the church. The photographer is cautioned not to block the way of those who are recessing. The bridal party may reassemble in the church or chapel after the ceremony and re-pose for any parts of the ceremony. Twenty minutes is adequate time for after-ceremony photographs. It is important that the photography time be as brief as possible in order that the wedding party can arrive at the reception promptly to greet their guests. The bride and groom can facilitate this process by providing the photographer with a detailed list of desired poses and encouraging the members of the wedding party to be as attentive and cooperative as possible.

The photographer is cautioned about marring furniture by standing on pews or by placing camera equipment on the pews or furniture in the building. The photographer will be held responsible for any damage so caused.



The photographer must wear appropriate clothing for worship. This shall be understood to mean a coat and tie for gentlemen and comparable attire for ladies.

The photographer is expected to comply with any instructions given by the Member of the Clergy, Wedding Guild, or Staff of the church. Failure to comply with written or verbal instructions may result in a request that the photographer cease taking pictures and leave the church immediately, and may result in the photographer being prohibited from exercising professional services at Good Shepherd in the future. The church accepts no responsibility for inconvenience and/or disappointment resulting from failure to comply with this policy.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE VIDEOGRAPHER

The wedding ceremony is a religious service, and all videographers (amateur and professional) are expected to show reverence for the ceremony and the worship space. Friends and family members are also requested to observe these rules. The following guidelines for the videographer are established by the Rector to help retain the liturgical integrity of The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage in Good Shepherd Church.

Video cameras may only be used in the choir loft (balcony). The Member of the Clergy or Wedding Guild member in charge of the wedding will show the videographer the location where a video camera may be placed in the balcony. Video cameras must be mounted on tripods and must remain in place for the entire ceremony. Cameras may not be moved from location to location once the service has begun.

The videographer is expected to comply with any instructions given by the Member of the Clergy or Staff of the church. Failure to comply with written or verbal instructions may result in a request that the videographer cease taping, and leave the church immediately, any may result in the videographer being prohibited from exercising professional services at Good Shepherd in the future. The church accepts no responsibility for inconvenience and / or disappointment resulting from failure to comply with its policy.

The videographer is cautioned about marring furniture by standing on pews or by placing camera equipment on the pews or furniture in the church. The videographer will be held responsible for any damage so caused.

Video equipment must be completely set up thirty minutes before the ceremony. Any equipment not set up by this time may not be permitted to be set up. The video operator must wear appropriate clothing for worship. This shall be understood to mean a coat and tie for gentlemen and comparable attire for ladies.

Please give this sheet to your Videographer

**THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
KINGWOOD, TEXAS**

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE VIDEOGRAPHER

The wedding ceremony is a religious service, all videographers (amateur and professional) are asked to show reverence for the ceremony and the worship space. Friends and family members are also requested to observe these rules. The following guidelines for the videographer are established by the Rector to help retain the liturgical integrity of The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage in Good Shepherd Church.

Video cameras may only be used in the choir loft (balcony). The Member of the Clergy or Wedding Guild member in charge of the wedding will show the videographer the location where a video camera may be placed in the balcony. Video cameras must be mounted on tripods and must remain in place for the entire ceremony. Cameras may not be moved from location to location once the service has begun.

The videographer is expected to comply with any instructions given by the Member of the Clergy or Staff of the church. Failure to comply with written or verbal instructions may result in a request that the videographer cease taping and leave the church immediately, any may result in the videographer being prohibited from exercising professional services at Good Shepherd in the future. The church accepts no responsibility for inconvenience and / or disappointment resulting from failure to comply with its policy.

The videographer is cautioned about marring furniture by standing on pews or by placing camera equipment on the pews or furniture in the church. The videographer will be held responsible for any damage so caused.

Video equipment must be completely set up thirty minutes before the ceremony. Any equipment not set up by this time may not be permitted to be set up. The video operator must wear appropriate clothing for worship. This shall be understood to mean a coat and tie for gentlemen and comparable attire for ladies.

THE REHEARSAL

The rehearsal shall begin promptly at the time scheduled. Delay in beginning consumes the time of the Member of the Clergy, Organist, Wedding Guild, and Sexton, and adds to the expense of lighting and heating or air conditioning. At certain seasons, because of the number of weddings booked in the church, rehearsals are scheduled close together, and promptness in the beginning of the rehearsal is a must. The bride and groom, therefore, should insist that all members of the wedding party be prompt for rehearsal as well as for the wedding. If the rehearsal is delayed for more than 30 minutes for non-emergency reasons, it may be canceled and the wedding held without a rehearsal.

The following persons should be present for the rehearsal:

1. The bride and groom
2. The maid (or matron) of honor and the best man
3. All bridesmaids and groomsmen
4. All children who will be in the wedding party (flower girls, ring bearers, junior bridesmaids, etc.)
5. All ushers
6. All parents of the couple who will be at the wedding
7. Any guest musicians (unless other arrangements are made with the Organist)

The following suggestions will help guide you as you prepare for your rehearsal:

1. The member of Good Shepherd's clergy staff will be in charge of the rehearsal.
2. Each rehearsal, unless otherwise agreed upon or unless multiple rehearsals dictate, will begin at 5:30 p.m. the day before the wedding. You should allow at least one full hour for the rehearsal.
3. The marriage license shall be delivered to the officiating Member of the Clergy at the rehearsal.

72-HOUR WAITING PERIOD

Texas State law requires that the marriage ceremony may not be performed during the 72 hour period immediately following the issuance of a marriage license, unless special provisions are met.

Questions? Stand-ins for the bride at the rehearsal are not permitted.

Humble, Texas location for Marriage License:
Harris County Justice of the Peace
7900 Will Clayton Pkwy.
Humble, Texas 77338-5849
281-540-1173

Remember, the rehearsal is a time for familiarization and minor adjustments. Major alterations to your wedding ceremony cannot be made at the rehearsal. These should all be accomplished ahead of time in consultation with the Member of the Clergy, the Organist, and the Wedding Guild Coordinator.

With certain conditions and after approval by the Wedding Coordinator, only beer and wine are permitted on church premises such as the Parish Hall during an on-site reception. No beer or wine is permitted in the parking lot or courtyard between the Church and Mission Center. Consumption of alcohol by the wedding party before the wedding is not allowed.

RECEPTIONS AT GOOD SHEPHERD

The church encourages the use of its facilities for wedding receptions and a coordinator from Good Shepherd's Wedding Reception Group will assist in making the arrangements. Strict compliance with the following rules is required:

1. Parish/Great Hall seating capacity is 250; for a standing only reception, 300 with limited chairs.
2. Receptions must begin by 6:00 p.m. and end at 9:00 p.m. This necessitates a 5:00 p.m. ceremony.
3. After meeting with the Wedding Coordinator, you will be given contact information for a Reception Coordinator to assist in planned usage of the kitchen, Parish Hall and linens.
4. Beer and wine are permitted only with permission and according to certain conditions anywhere on church property. Only beer and wine may be served and done so by one 21 years of age or older. No alcohol may be consumed in the parking lot or courtyard to the Mission Center.
5. Smoking is prohibited inside the church buildings and the courtyard to the Mission Center.
6. Matchbooks or Bic-type lighters are prohibited. However the Reception Coordinator can discuss guest table lighting used as centerpieces.
7. The use of rice is prohibited. Birdseed is permitted **ONLY** on the street. It may not be distributed inside the building, or thrown in the outdoor entranceways to the church. We recommend bubbles or tiny bells.
8. If using a caterer, they must be licensed and must provide all dishes and cooking equipment. The caterer is responsible for their clean up in the kitchen and at the serving tables.
9. Good Shepherd recommends the wedding party hire a security guard for the parking lot during the reception. The Wedding Coordinator has contact information for HPD security guards who have worked the church parking lot in the past.

The church will not be responsible for personal items and other equipment left at the church.



FACILITIES AND FEES

FOR THE WEDDING:

Two areas of the church are available for weddings. Subject only to prior schedules and limitations. The church cannot accept responsibility for seating more people in each of the spaces than is indicated below.

Church seating capacity	600	
Chapel seating capacity	30	
Marriage Celebration and Blessing		\$800
Includes use of Sanctuary and facilities, Organist, Candelabra, Set Up, Usher Lead, Verger, Acolytes, Wedding Coordinator and Custodial Services.		
Choir		\$250
Bell Ensemble		\$250
Flute Ensemble		\$250
Organist Accompaniment Fees (\$50 per ensemble and soloist)		\$50+
Pew Torches		\$50



OTHER:

NOTES