

# The Original Congregational Church

## Wrentham, Massachusetts

### **Wedding Policy**

The essence of marriage, according to the United Church of Christ Book of Worship, is a covenanted commitment that has its foundation in the faithfulness of God's love. The marriage ceremony is a service of worship in which two people unite in the mutual exchange of covenant promises before God and a gathering of family and friends.

We welcome members and friends of our church family who wish to hold a Christian wedding at this church. People in the surrounding community who desire a Christian wedding may also hold a ceremony here at the discretion of the Senior Pastor. This policy is open to any couple, subject to the above, that may be legally married according to the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

#### **Officiant**

The Senior Pastor of The Original Congregational Church (OCC) performs weddings in the church Sanctuary or Chapel. Requests for different clergy to assist or perform the wedding ceremony may be considered, and such requests require the approval of the OCC Senior Pastor and the Coordinating Council. Any clergy officiating at an OCC wedding ceremony must be licensed and ordained, and in good standing. Guest clergy or their appointed representative needs to be in attendance at wedding rehearsals.

#### **Pre-Marital Consultations**

The Senior Pastor will conduct the equivalent of 3 hours of pre-marital consultations with the couple prior to their wedding. These consultations will include a discussion concerning the role of faith in marriage, their spiritual lives, and the vows and commitments they will be asked to make. The Senior Pastor will guide the couple in planning the elements of the ceremony. An emphasis will be placed on creating a personal ceremony, reflective of the couple's life together, and a prayerful and joyful faith in God.

#### **Music**

The OCC Organist will play at all weddings and rehearsals. The OCC Organist will guide the couple in selecting appropriate music for the ceremony. The Organist of the OCC has the right of first refusal for all services in the church. Soloists and instrumentalists must be coordinated with the OCC Organist and Senior Pastor.

#### **Photography**

We welcome you to record your wedding ceremony at the OCC. Please discuss your plans with the Senior Pastor. We ask that you respect the solemnity of the sanctuary and to be mindful of your guests that the picture and video taking not be obtrusive in any way. Our sanctuary, without a center isle, creates some limitations for photographers. Please ask them to speak with the minister when they arrive.

## **Candles**

Candles may be used as a part of a worship service, as long as they are in holders and are under the supervision of an individual who will be responsible for extinguishing them following the service. If including Altar candles in the ceremony they will be provided, with the silver candlesticks, by OCC. For an additional charge of \$25.00 we will provide a candelabra. If you are having a unity candle, we invite you to purchase your own and bring it to the church at the rehearsal.

## **Marriage License**

A valid Massachusetts Marriage License is required by the state before a wedding may be performed. The Senior Pastor must receive the license at the rehearsal or the day before the wedding.

There is a (3) three day waiting period to receive your license. A license is valid for (60) sixty days from the day you originally file and may be obtained in any city or town within the Commonwealth. Out-of-State marriage licenses cannot be used in Massachusetts. Out of State clergy must get authorization from the Secretary of State prior to the ceremony.

## **Sexton**

The Sexton will be at the church during the rehearsal and wedding, and will open the building 1-1/2 hours prior to the time of the wedding service. **A minimum 24-hour notice is required for set-ups.**

## **Facilities Policy**

In order to reserve the Church you will be required to review our Facilities Policy and complete a Facilities Request Form. All wedding party and guests are expected to follow the guidelines set forth in the OCC Facilities Policy. Please remember that the scattering of confetti, rice, birdfeed, or other similar substances is not permitted on Church property.

## **OCC Member Representative**

A member of OCC will be present prior to and during the rehearsal and wedding to provide assistance.

## **Fees**

- 1) Member fees apply when the bride or groom, or one of his or her parents, is currently in good standing as a supporting member of The Original Congregational Church.
- 2) All fees are to be received one week prior to the wedding and may be mailed to the church office.

## **General Information**

**Handicap Access:** The Original Congregational Church is handicap accessible. Please let us know if you will need to use the handicap entrances/lift to sanctuary. *Note: There is no bathroom facility on the Sanctuary level.*

**Sanctuary Capacity:** 340

**Chapel Capacity:** 50

**Parlor Capacity:** 40

**Fellowship Hall Capacity:** 225