

Little Stone Church Wedding Guidelines

We are pleased you are interested in having your wedding at Little Stone Church. Our church offers weddings from mid-May to early-October. This document has been prepared to acquaint you with several facts that will be helpful in considering our church for your wedding venue.

The first thing you should know is that Little Stone Church is actually a church; we are not a wedding chapel. Our congregation meets in the sanctuary each Sunday at 10:30 AM during the season. Your wedding at our church is considered a religious & spiritual service performed by our pastor, and will be set within the context of the Christian Faith.

Ceremonies of Christian marriage of same-sex couples are welcome in our sanctuary in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan and these guidelines.

The Fee

Wedding Fee - \$1,500

This fee supports our community outreach programs. The wedding fee includes consultation with our minister prior to the wedding, a rehearsal led by the minister, your wedding, and an organist for rehearsal and wedding. Fee is the same whether or not you have a rehearsal. Rehearsals are recommended if attendants or children are involved in the ceremony.

A **non-refundable** deposit of \$800 is required to reserve your wedding date. **The balance of \$700 is due six months prior to the wedding date.** The final payment of \$700 is refundable with 120 days Notice of Cancellation. This notice must be in writing to the Director of Weddings. No refund will be given after 120 days.

Vow Renewal Fee - \$400 or \$650 with music

Payment in full is due upon reserving the date for the vow renewal. There are no rehearsals for this ceremony.

Day & Time of the Wedding

Little Stone Church allots time for the following weddings and rehearsals:

Wedding Day	Wedding Time	Rehearsal Day	Rehearsal Time
Friday	11:00 AM	Thursday	1:30 PM
Saturday	11:00 AM	Friday	2:30 PM
Saturday	2:00 PM	Friday	3:30 PM
Saturday	4:00 PM	Friday	4:30 PM

Weddings and vow renewals for other days and/or times are based on availability, but can be performed. Time slots are filled on a first-come, first-served basis according to receipt of the application and deposit fee.

Consultation with the Minister

A consultation to meet the minister and discuss details of your wedding is scheduled 30 minutes prior to your rehearsal. Unless you make other arrangements, please arrive promptly at the church one-half hour prior to your rehearsal time and **bring your marriage license.**

Marriage License

The following website contains the laws of marriages in the State of Michigan:

http://www.usmarriagelaws.com/search/united_states/michigan/index.shtml

You will need to provide a valid marriage license to the minister at the consultation or rehearsal prior to the actual wedding service. You do not have to be a resident of Michigan, but the marriage license fee is \$10 more for non-residents.

Residents need to apply for their marriage license in the county in which one of them lives. Even though you apply for your marriage license in the county you live in, you can get married any place in Michigan.

Non-residents need to apply for their marriage license in the county where they plan on getting married. For weddings at Little Stone Church, this would be:

Mackinac County Clerk
100 Marley Street
St. Ignace, MI 49781

The Size of our Church

Little Stone Church seats 200 people. The chancel area is a comfortable size. The aisle is short and narrow, and pew bows and aisle runners are not permitted. There is no room for a kneeling bench; but we do accommodate unity candles, when desired, by placing them on our alter table.

The Service Itself

We have a beautiful service designed for Little Stone Church. According to our church rule, the minister of our church must conduct the service. If you wish your own clergy person to participate in any way, or to include additional music or readings, you must consult with our minister and organist **at least eight weeks prior to your wedding**. It is acceptable for you to provide your own music, but we recommend our organist and traditional wedding music, as it seems to fit best in our style of service. We can also incorporate Communion into the wedding ceremony, making Communion the very first act as a married couple.

A list of our organist's standard offerings will be provided to you if you select Little Stone Church.

Wedding Consultants

You may choose to employ a wedding consultant to help you with multiple tasks in preparing for your wedding, but our minister and wedding coordinator are very experienced with weddings, and the consultant is expected to defer to them in all matters related directly to the service.

Church Assistant

In addition to the Little Stone Church Director of Weddings, who will work with you to determine a date and time for your wedding and provide you with all the information you need to finalize your wedding service, the church will provide you with an assistant for both the rehearsal and the wedding. This assistant is a member of Little Stone Church and will help with all the details on those two days, including starting participants down the aisle during the wedding assembly.

Photography

We are happy to work with any photographer you choose, and will suggest a place for a videographer to work if you elect to have one. We do not permit flash photography during the wedding service itself, as we consider that a time of worship, and suggest that you inform your photographer, guests and members of your wedding party.

Candelabras and Flowers

The church provides two wrought-iron candelabras for your service, and can also provide designer silk flowers on the candelabras if you would like to use them. **We will provide the unity candle holder, but you are expected to bring a unity candle & two side candles, if you expect to use them.**

Rice, Petals, Smoking & Alcohol

Your guests may use bubbles or butterflies to celebrate outside the church. **Rice, flower petals and birdseed are not allowed inside or outside the church.** Smoking and the drinking of alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the premises.

Temperature

The temperature on the island is normally 5 -10 degrees cooler than in lower parts of Michigan. You may wish to bring shawls, wraps or sweaters for standing outside the church and taking carriage rides.

www.littlestonechurch.com
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