

Many have found this church to be a most attractive and fitting place for their marriage celebration. We offer the following as a guide to your planning:

ELIGIBILITY

The North Parish minister is usually available for weddings of members and any their immediate family. An alternate minister may be available for non-members and friends. It is the responsibility of the couple to arrange for a cleric to officiate. (Alternate ministers are listed below.)

RESERVATIONS/FEES

You may arrange for a wedding by calling the church office. Since couples often consider several churches for their wedding, wedding dates will be verified only upon receipt of a \$100 non-refundable deposit. While there is no charge for church members or for contributors who have made a pledge to the church *equal to or in excess of applicable fees* for the use of the building and the minister, all are expected to pay a sexton's fee for custodial service and the organist fee if applicable. For all others there is an established fee schedule for the use of the facilities.

Use of the Sanctuary: \$500

A non-refundable deposit of \$100 is required in order to reserve the church; the \$400 balance is due on or before the wedding rehearsal. Both checks payable to "The North Parish of North Andover."

Minister's Honorarium: \$500 - \$600

(Check payable to the presiding minister.)

The honorarium for the minister is by custom given directly to the minister by the best man/woman or one of the principal wedding participants (traditionally the groom) at the rehearsal. In lieu of an honorarium church members are asked to make a contribution to the Minister's Discretionary fund.

Sexton's Fee: \$50-\$150

Fee depends on time and services required.

Check payable to "North Parish of North Andover".

Organist's Fee: \$250

Payment is made with return of Organist's contract to reserve date.

Organist check should be made payable to the respective individual and presented to the office prior to or by the rehearsal.

REHEARSAL

One hour is allowed for the rehearsal, which may be scheduled on either a Thursday or Friday between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Please be prompt. All persons who participate in the wedding ceremony should attend the rehearsal, which will begin on time regardless of absent members of the wedding party. The organist does not attend rehearsals but will meet with couples, instrumentalists or soloists as necessary.

CEREMONY

The wedding ceremony begins at the time for which the church is reserved. You and your guests will have access to the church forty-five minutes before the starting time.

SUMMER

For your consideration, the North Parish sanctuary is not air-conditioned. Summer weddings may want to be planned for the morning or early evening for cooler temperatures.

RECEPTION

We discourage use of the church hall for the reception, since our custodial care is only part-time.

DECORATIONS

There is no need for elaborate decorations; simple floral arrangements are most appropriate. Flowers and/or bows may be hooked or clipped to the pews. Nothing else may be stuck on or taped to the pews or chancel woodwork. No fixed furnishings or ornament in the church may be covered or removed. Your plans for decoration and flower delivery should be confirmed with the church office and/or the minister. The sexton will be available one hour prior to the ceremony to open the church for flower delivery and set-up. We discourage the use of rice, balloons and/or confetti as environmentally unfit; however you may use birdseed, flower petals or bubbles *outside the church only*.

PHOTOGRAPHS

While a photo record of the wedding may be desired, wandering photographers and the flash of lights disrupt the dignity of the service. Therefore, flash photographs may not be taken during the exchange of vows. An opportunity for a relaxed pose of events can easily be staged following the service.

MUSIC

The church is equipped with both a piano and an organ. We request that there be no alterations made to the public address system.

The North Parish Music Director (see back page for Music Director's information) reserves the option to provide music for church members and their families. Non-members will arrange and pay for their own musicians. A listening of recommended musicians includes:

Organists

Frances Burmeister francesburmeister@comcast.net, 978-372-0606, home, 617-267-1520, cell

Kathy Troiano katroiano@aol.com 978-975-1244

Vocalist

Lori McLaughlin lvtasing63@cs.com

CREATING THE SERVICE

Every wedding service is a unique and special celebration. The minister expects to work directly with the couple in the design and preparation of the individual service. General plans and resource materials are provided at the first session with the minister. A final draft of the service should be given or sent to the minister at least two weeks prior to the wedding day.

Some couples prefer a location other than the church for the wedding. These events are usually less formal, but they can be no less meaningful. The minister is willing to help plan and perform such weddings.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

A Massachusetts marriage license is required for all legal wedding services. It is obtained from the clerk of the municipality or town of your Massachusetts residence or for non-residents in the municipality or town of the wedding service. It should be presented to the minister at the rehearsal.

Minister:

The Reverend Lee A. Bluemel
Church Email
Minister's Study

978-687-7948
minister@northparish.org
978-685-2845

Alternate Ministers:

The Reverend Emily Melcher
www.emilymelcher.com

emilymelcher@comcast.net
617-489-7954

The Reverend Ralph Galen

RalphGalen@gmail.com

Justice of the Peace:

Kathy Slade, New Hampshire

Kathy.Slade@gmail.com

Music Director:

John Middleton-Cox

middletonmusic@yahoo.com
978-687-7948

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact the North parish Congregational Administrator at 978-687-7948 or office@northparish.org.

YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

AT

THE NORTH PARISH OF NORTH ANDOVER
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

190 Academy Road (Church)
3 Great Pond Road (Offices)
North Andover, MA 01845-4022
Phone: 978-687-7948
E-mail: office@northparish.org



Founded 1645

The North Parish of North Andover
Unitarian Universalist
North Andover, Massachusetts
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