

The Service of Marriage
At Rayne



Guidelines

Policies

Fees

Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

for 140 years shining the light of God's love and grace

3900 St. Charles Avenue

New Orleans, Louisiana 70115 504-899-3431

www.raynenola.org

We Welcome Your Wedding

Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

welcomes you and provides these guidelines
to assist you in planning your wedding.

Scheduling

Secure the date of your wedding on the church calendar as soon as possible.

Fees must be paid in full in order to secure the date of the wedding.

The following days are not available for weddings:

Holiday Weekends, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Holy Week, Easter, Memorial Day,
Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Saturday weddings must be scheduled before 6 p.m.

Minister

Weddings at Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church are preformed by our pastors.

If you desire another minister to assist or to conduct the ceremony,
you may make arrangements through our pastor and we will gladly extend our welcome.

Pre-Marital Counseling

Every couple married at Rayne will be required to meet with a counselor for three sessions
in preparation for marriage. Arrangements for payment will be made directly with the counselor.

Couples living outside the New Orleans area may complete the counseling requirement
using a minister or counselor of their choice; a letter to the pastor of Rayne
verifying that pre-marital counseling has been completed, will be required
before the wedding may be conducted.

Wedding Coordinators

From start to finish, our Wedding Coordinators will assist you in plans for your rehearsal,
flowers, photography, decorations, the use of the facilities, the day of the wedding, etc.

Rehearsal

Please encourage all members of the wedding party to attend the rehearsal and to be punctual.

The church will be open 15 minutes prior to a scheduled rehearsal.

A period of one hour will be reserved for the rehearsal.

The minister will conduct the rehearsal.

The marriage license will be signed at the rehearsal.

Music

The Rayne Organist will be available to discuss your selections of music
and to perform during the ceremony.

If you desire a soloist, the church may provide one at an additional cost
to be arranged directly with the musician.

Because a church wedding is a service of Christian worship,
only sacred music may be used.

Photography

Because the Christian wedding is a service of worship, the photographer will not be allowed movement during the ceremony itself.

Under no circumstances shall the photographer be permitted to enter the altar area during the worship.

The photographer will be free to photograph as he or she desires during the processional and recessional.

The Sanctuary

The sanctuary seating capacity is 350.

Bride's Room and Parlor

The wedding party should arrive dressed in their wedding attire.

The Bride's Room will be available for the bride and attendants, and the Parlor will be available for the groom and attendants.

Decorations

Your florist may call the church and arrange for access to the sanctuary.

Please advise your florist or decorator that:

- ✿ Only drip-less candles may be used.
- ✿ Carpet and furnishings must be protected from wax, water, soil from potted plants, etc.
- ✿ The use of nails, tacks, pins, glue and tape is strictly prohibited.
- ✿ Decorations may not obscure the symbols of the church, nor should any of the altar ware or furnishings be moved without the prior approval of the pastor or wedding coordinator.

Use of Alcohol

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on church property or in church buildings, nor should any of the wedding party come to the church under the influence of alcohol.

Violation of this policy will result in the forfeiture of your deposit.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted in any of the church buildings.

No Rice, Please

For safety reasons, the throwing of rice or birdseed is not permitted.

Flower petals may be thrown inside or outside the sanctuary.

Bubbles may be blown outside only.

Personal Items

The Church cannot be liable for personal items lost, damaged or stolen.

Fees

All fees must be paid in full to secure the wedding date on the church calendar.

For Members

who have been on the church rolls for 6 months or more

\$800

This fee covers the costs of the Sanctuary or Chapel usage, the Bride's Room usage, the Wedding Coordinators, the Sexton, the Wedding, the Rehearsal, and the Musician

For Non-Members

\$3400

including a deposit of \$500 to be refunded if there is no damage to church property and wedding guidelines are observed

The fees cover the costs of the Sanctuary or Chapel usage, the Bride's Room, the Wedding Coordinators, the Sexton, the Wedding and Rehearsal, the Musician and the Minister

**Rayne Memorial
United Methodist Church**
The Celebration of Christian Marriage

*Sample Order of Worship
for the Marriage Ceremony*

Prelude

Processional

Greeting

Declaration of Intention

Presentation of Bride

Scripture Reading(s)

Prayer

Possible Solo or Anthem

Exchange of Vows

Blessing of the Rings

Exchange of Rings

Unity Candle If There Is To Be One

Possible Solo or Anthem

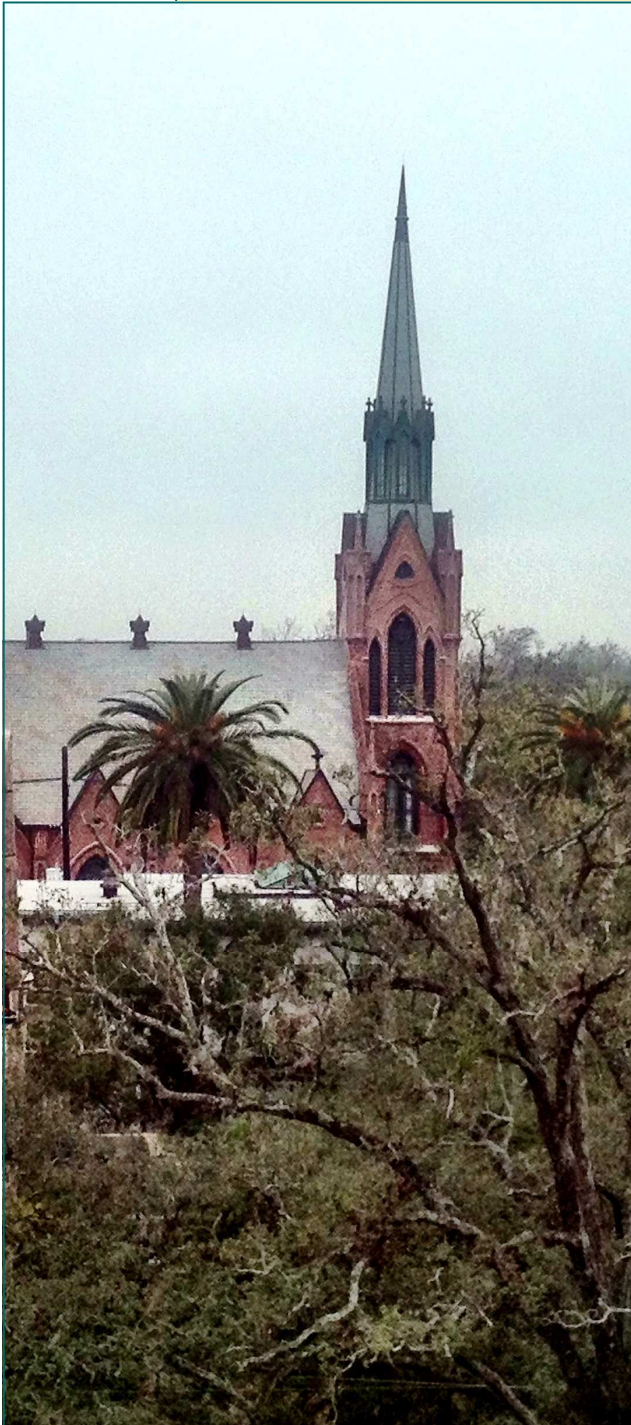
Declaration of Marriage

Blessing of the Marriage

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Recessional



Declaration of Intent

Name, will you have *name*
to be your wedded *wife/ husband*,
to live together in the holy estate of matrimony?
Will you love *her/him*, comfort *her/him*,
honor and keep *her/him*
in sickness and in health;
and forsaking all others keep only to *her/him*
so long as you both shall live?

Response: I will.

The Vows

I, *Name*, take you, *Name*,
to be my wedded *wife/ 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,
till death us do part,
according to God's holy ordinance;
and thereto I pledge you my faith.

The Ring Vow

In token and pledge
of our constant faith and abiding love,
with this ring I thee wed.
With all that I am
and all that I have,
I honor you.

Possible Scripture Lessons

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a
“The two shall become one...”

Ruth 1:16-17
“Where you go, I will go...”

I Corinthians 13
*“Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things...”*

Colossians 3:12-17
*“Above all else, put on love,
which binds everything in perfect harmony...”*

1 John 4:7-16
*“Beloved, let us love one another;
for love is of God...”*



More Suggested Scripture Lessons

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a	The creation of man and woman
Song of Solomon 2:10-14, 16a, 8:6-7	Love is strong as death
Isaiah 43:1-7	You are precious in God's eyes
Isaiah 55:10-13	You shall go out in joy
Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Rejoice in the Lord
Isaiah 63:7-9	The steadfast love of the Lord
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18	The life of a Christian
1 Corinthians 13	The greatest of these is love
2 Corinthians 5:14-17	In Christ we are a new creation
Ephesians 2:4-10	God's love for us
Ephesians 4:1-6	Called to the one hope
Ephesians 4:25-5:2	Members one of another
Philippians 2:1-2	The Christlike spirit
Philippians 4:4-9	Rejoice in the Lord
Colossians 3:12-17	Live in love and thanksgiving
1 John 3:18-24	Love one another
1 John 4:7-16	God is love
Revelation 19:1, 5-9a	The wedding feast of the Lamb
Matthew 5:1-10	The Beatitudes
Matthew 7:21, 24-27	A house built upon a rock
Matthew 22:35-40	Love, the greatest commandment
Mark 2:18-22	Joy in Christ as at a wedding
Mark 10:42-45	True greatness
John 2:1-11	The marriage feast of Cana
John 15:9-17	Remain in Christ's love

Suggested Hymns *in the United Methodist Hymnal*

642	As Man and Woman We Were Made	645	O Perfect Love
451	Be Thou My Vision	408	The Gift of Love
158	Come, Christians, Join to Sing	138	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
164	Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life	643	When Love is Found
695	O Lord, My Church and Home Combine	549	Where Charity and Love Prevail
647	Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here		

Suggested Psalms and Canticles *in the United Methodist Hymnal*

23 (UMH 128, 136-38, 518, 754)	The Lord is my shepherd
33 (UMH 767)	Rejoice in the Lord
34 (UMH 769)	I will bless the Lord
37 (UMH 772)	Trust in the Lord and do good
67 (UMH 791)	May God be gracious to us
100 (UMH 74, 75, 821)	Make a joyful noise to the Lord
103 (UMH 139, 824)	Bless the Lord, O my soul
112 (UMH 833)	Happy are those who fear the Lord
145 (UMH 857)	The Lord is gracious
148 (UMH 861)	Praise the Lord from the heavens
150 (UHM 96, 139, 862)	Praise the Lord
Canticle of Love (UMH 646)	Two shall become one in love

To Book Your Wedding

*Please read and complete the following forms
and, along with payment in full,
return them to:*

**Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church
3900 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70115**

www.raynenola.org
504-899-3431
FAX 504-899-4212

Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

Wedding Guidelines

Please read the **Wedding Guidelines** carefully.
Then complete the **Wedding Arrangement Form**.
Sign the **Wedding Agreement Form**.
Return the originals along with your payment in full.

The Service of Marriage

from the United Methodist Book of Worship.

The service of Christian marriage is provided for couples who wish to solemnize their marriage in a service of Christian worship. Christian marriage is proclaimed as a sacred covenant reflecting the Baptismal Covenant. Everything about the service is designed to witness that this is a Christian marriage.

Both words and actions consistently reflect the belief that husband and wife are equal partners in Christian marriage and that they are entering into the marriage of their own volition.

Those present are understood to be an active congregation rather than simply passive witnesses. They give their blessing to the couple and to the marriage, and they join in prayer and praise. All plans should be approved by the pastor. The pastor's "due counsel with the parties involved" prior to marriage should include, in addition to premarital counseling, discussing and planning the service with them and informing them of policies or guidelines established by the congregation. The organist should be consulted and work with the couple in all decisions on music selection.

Pre-Marital Counseling

Every couple married at Rayne will meet at least once with our Senior Pastor and will be required to meet with a counselor for three sessions in preparation for marriage. The cost of these sessions and arrangements for payment will be made directly with the counselor. Couples living outside the New Orleans area may complete the counseling requirement using a minister or counselor of their choice; a letter to the pastor of Rayne verifying that pre-marital counseling has been completed will be required before the wedding may be conducted.

Wedding Consultants

While wedding professionals are helpful in planning the wedding and reception, the minister will conduct the rehearsal and the ceremony itself. The church wedding coordinator(s) will be present at both rehearsal and wedding to help direct the attendants and ushers.

Decorating the Sanctuary and Chapel

Because of the ornate beauty of the Sanctuary, we suggest simple flower arrangements and candles. One or two arrangements on the altar are sufficient, but should not cover or stand taller than the altar cross. The cross is approximately 24 inches high. If a unity candle is to be used, the church will provide a table for its placement near the altar.

Candles with hurricane globes which attach by gripping the tops of the pew ends may be put on the pew ends. Those which are free-standing may not be used. Only drip-less candles may be used.

We ask that *no rice or birdseed* be thrown in or around the church. Please do not affix anything to the walls or furnishings of the church with tacks or nails, and please do not move or rearrange furnishings.

Food and Beverages

No food, beverages, alcohol, or smoking are allowed in the Sanctuary at any time. Ice water will be provided for the wedding party on the wedding day.

Photography

Because the wedding ceremony is a service of worship, photographers and videographers are requested to remain stationary and to refrain from flash photography once the ceremony begins. During both the processional and recessional, photographers may be free to photograph with flash as desired. Photographers may take time exposures from the balcony at any time.

Rehearsal

Our minister will direct the rehearsal. The bride and groom are requested to ask the wedding party, parents, friends, etc. to arrive on time. Please bring the marriage license to the rehearsal. At this time, it will be signed by the bride, groom, and witnesses. The minister will sign the license following the wedding itself.

Music

Our organist is available to meet with the couple to discuss and recommend music to be used in the service. If you desire a soloist, the church may provide one at an additional cost to be arranged directly with the musician. Because a church wedding is a service of Christian worship, only sacred music will be used. Hymns are appropriate in the service, either played or sung.

Ushers

Ushers play a very important role in the seating of guests and family members. It is helpful to have as many as four ushers, and it is very important that all four be present for the rehearsal.

*We want your wedding to be a wonderful time for you, your families and friends!
Do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns.*

Wedding Coordinators, Shaun Darnall at 899-3431 and Annette Gray at 460-3131
Rev. Carol Winn Crawford at 899-3431

Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church

Wedding Arrangement Form

Please complete as much as you can of this form and return it to Rayne.

BRIDE'S NAME _____

First

Middle

Last

Name to be used in ceremony _____

Present address _____

Cell phone _____ Work Phone _____ Age _____

Email Address _____

Member of: Rayne Memorial? _____ Another church? _____

GROOM'S NAME _____

First

Middle

Last

Name to be used in ceremony _____

Present address _____

Cell phone _____ Work Phone _____ Age _____

Email Address _____

Member of: Rayne Memorial? _____ Another church? _____

WEDDING DATE _____ Time _____ a.m. or p.m.

Location: Sanctuary _____ Chapel _____ Other _____

Will someone give the bride away? _____ If so, who? _____

Attendants: Number of bridesmaids _____ Number of groomsmen _____

Flower girl(s)? _____ Ring bearer? _____ Other? _____

Names: Best man _____ Maid/Matron of honor _____

Will Ushers light the candles? _____ Candle Lighters? _____ or should they be lighted beforehand? _____

REHEARSAL DATE _____ Time _____ (a.m. or p.m.)

MUSIC: Do you want our church organist to play? _____

Name of Guest Organist _____ Phone _____

Soloist? _____ If so, name _____ Phone _____

RECEPTION: Place _____

FLORIST: Name _____ Phone _____

Please Note:

If the wedding is on a Saturday, please request your florist to schedule delivery by calling the church office at 504-899-3431.

Please make arrangements with the florist or otherwise for the removal of decorations after the wedding.

MINISTER IN CHARGE: _____

If not on Rayne staff, give name and address _____

FUTURE ADDRESS OF BRIDE AND GROOM _____

Fees

*Wedding fees must be paid in full in order for
Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church
to secure your date on the calendar*

Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church
Wedding Agreement

Please sign and return to church with payment



I am enclosing a check in the amount of \$ _____

for the wedding of

_____ and _____

bride

groom

to be held on

date

To be signed by the bride and groom.

I have read the wedding guidelines of the Rayne Memorial United Methodist Church
and I agree to abide by them.

I understand that violation of any policy will result in a forfeiture of my deposit.

bride

groom

date

Your Wedding at Rayne

CHECKLIST



- Senior Pastor
Rev. Carol "Callie" Winn Crawford
504-899-3431
calliewcrawford@gmail.com

- Associate Pastor
Rev. Max Zehner
504-899-3431
max.zehner@raynenola.org

- Date and Fees
Shaun Darnall, Wedding Coordinator
504-899-3431
shaun.darnall@raynenola.org

- Counseling
For a fee: Dr. William Thiele
504-899-3431
william.thiele56@gmail.com

- Musician(s)
Marcus St. Julien
504-810-6780
stjulienm@bellsouth.net

- License
*Department of Vital Records,
Orleans Parish*
504-568-5182

- Photography

- Florist