

Welcome! We are glad that you are considering Metairie Ridge Presbyterian Church for your wedding. We hope the following information will be helpful to you as you plan for this important event in your life. If you have never visited our church, we invite you to join us for worship on Sunday, or you may call the church office at 504-833-6357 to schedule a time to come by and meet with the pastor and see our sanctuary. We sometimes host weddings for couples whose home church is not large enough to accommodate their guests. Our sanctuary seats 400.

Christian Marriage:

Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage by itself is a civil contract between a woman and a man. For Christians, however, marriage is a covenant through which a man and a woman are called to live out together before God their lives of discipleship. In a service of Christian marriage a lifelong commitment is made by a woman and a man to each other, publicly witnessed and acknowledged by the community of faith.

As a service of Christian worship, the marriage service is under the direction of the minister and the supervision of the Session (board of officers).

The Christian marriage ceremony is a service of worship before God. Reverence shall be expected on the part of all present. We are pleased you're considering Metairie Ridge Presbyterian Church for your wedding. The minister and staff will assist you in every way possible to make your wedding a memorable experience.

All weddings must be approved in advance by the church Session. The marriage will be recorded in the Session minutes and in the church register.

The Couple:

At least one of the couple must be a professing Christian, although it is not required that either be a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In preparation for the marriage service, the minister shall discuss, in counseling sessions with the bride and groom, the nature of the Christian commitment in marriage, the legal requirements of the state of Louisiana, the vows and commitments they will be asked to make, the nature and form of the marriage service, and other concerns.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) permits the remarriage of persons who have previously been divorced and does not require an annulment process. Couples who have previously been married in a civil ceremony may have a service of worship confirming their marriage in the community of faith.

Officiant:

The pastor of Metairie Ridge Presbyterian Church shall be in charge of all wedding ceremonies. If another minister is desired, that person must be approved by the Session. Such a request should be submitted in writing at least six months before the wedding.

Wedding consultants, while unnecessary for the rehearsal and wedding ceremony, must confer with the pastor regarding all plans.

The Service:

The service begins with scriptural sentences and a brief statement of purpose. The man and the woman shall declare their intention to enter into Christian marriage and shall exchange vows of love and faithfulness. The service includes appropriate passages of Scripture, which may be interpreted in various forms of proclamation. Prayers shall be offered for the couple, for the communities which support them in this new dimension of discipleship, and for all who seek to live in faithfulness. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the minister shall declare publicly that the woman and the man are now joined in marriage. The service concludes with a benediction.

If the couple desires that the service include the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, this must be approved in advance by the Session of the church. In such cases, the sacrament must be performed by a minister ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and be offered to all those present who have been baptized, regardless of denominational affiliation.

A marriage service may also take place in the context of Sunday worship. In such circumstances, at least one of the parties would be expected to be a member of Metairie Ridge. Such a service must be approved in advance by the Worship Committee and the Session.

Music and Appointments:

Music suitable for the marriage service directs attention to God and expresses the faith of the church. The congregation may join in hymns and other musical forms of praise and prayer. Flowers, decorations and other appointments should be appropriate to the place of worship, enhance the worshipers' consciousness of the reality of God, and reflect the integrity and simplicity of the Christian life.

The organist shall be the church organist of Metairie Ridge or someone designated by the organist, unless a request is made in writing at least six months in advance of the wedding and approved by the Session.

Because of the risk of tripping, center aisle runners are strongly discouraged. If candles are used, it is the responsibility of the couple to obtain them and to insure that they are dripless. There shall be no taping, gluing, or tacking decorations to any woodwork, pews or plaster.

The couple must inform the florist that our custodian will be here only one hour prior to the wedding. If the florist needs him here earlier, there will be an additional \$10.00 per hour charge for every hour prior to the hour before the wedding. It is the responsibility of the couple to inform the florist to remove all decorations upon completion of the service, except those flowers which are designated for Sunday services.

Photographs:

If the couple desires photography and/or videotaping of the wedding ceremony, this must be coordinated with the officiating pastor.

Personal Valuables:

While every reasonable effort will be made to assist the wedding party in protecting their personal items, we cannot be responsible for personal property that is left unattended before, during and after the worship service.

General:

No beverages or food are allowed in the sanctuary. No smoking is allowed in the buildings. No alcohol is allowed on the premises at any time. For safety, the throwing of rice, birdseed, flower petals, bubbles, etc. is not permitted in any area of the church property.

Fees/Application:

The wedding fee includes the use of the sanctuary and the services of the Minister, Director of Music and Custodian.

Marriage Service	\$700.00	
Reception in Hugo Fellowship		
Hall (2 hours maximum)	\$250.00	
Sundays and Scheduled Holidays	\$300.00 extra	Subject to approval of the pastor and the Session

The completed, signed wedding application form and a non-refundable deposit of \$350.00 are needed to book a wedding date. Checks are to be made payable to “Metairie Ridge Presbyterian Church.” The balance of the fees is due ONE MONTH prior to the scheduled wedding date.

Please bring forms/checks to the church office or mail to:

Metairie Ridge Presbyterian Church
 215 Phosphor Avenue
 Metairie, LA 70005
 Phone: 504-833-6357 Fax: 504-833-1419