

Weddings at Porter United Methodist Church

As United Methodists, we believe that marriage is a sacred three-way covenant between the bride, the groom and God. The marriage ceremony is neither a performance nor a social gathering, but a service of worship. With this in mind, the plans you make for your wedding should create an atmosphere of dignity, beauty and good taste. The rule of the scriptures is wise: "Let all things be done decently and in order."

Within these guidelines, the pastor and staff of Porter United Methodist Church want to assist you in making your wedding a meaningful and joyful experience. Contact our office by calling (219) 926-1586 or emailing porterumchurch@gmail.com, for information regarding rates and availability.

Choosing a Pastor

The pastor at Porter United Methodist Church is expected to officiate for all weddings. If you would like to have an additional pastor from another church assist in the service, the invitation will be extended by the pastor at Porter. The officiating pastor will meet with the bridal couple for counseling concerning the issues of marriage. Prior to this meeting any requested written material must be returned to the church.

Wedding Music

Music for the wedding will be discussed at the meeting with the pastor. The Porter Church organist is expected to play for all weddings. Any alternative must be approved by our organist. Music chosen for the wedding should be suitable for use in the worship service. The organist may have suggestions for instrumental or vocal soloists.

Photography

Since the wedding ceremony is a service of worship, flash pictures are not permitted after the entrance of the bride. Please remind your family and friends that no flash pictures may be taken until the recessional. Your wedding photographer may photograph the processional from the back third of the sanctuary. Please make your photographers aware of Porter Church's policies. Couples are encouraged to have as many pictures taken prior to the ceremony as possible. All photography, including videotaping, is regulated under the direction of the building staff members.

Policies and Facilities

Porter Church is a smoke free environment; smoking is not permitted in any part of the building. ***Alcoholic beverages of any kind are also prohibited on church premises.*** The use of rice, confetti or birdseed is discouraged but can be used way outside. Any flower petals used indoors must be artificial.

Seating

The sanctuary can seat approximately 250 guests.

Rehearsal

Rehearsal times will be scheduled with the pastor. Usually, the rehearsal is held on the evening before the wedding. Please arrive promptly so the rehearsal may begin on time. It will last approximately one hour. All persons involved in the ceremony should be present for the rehearsal. This includes parents as well as the wedding party.

Flowers and Decorations

No decorations will be allowed which would obscure the central symbol of the Christian faith, the cross. Decorations may not use nails, tacks, or wire on walls or woodwork. Pew bows may be attached with large rubber bands, elastic ribbon, or our plastic clamps.

The center aisle must be left open for the seating of guests. Aisle runners are available from your florist. The center aisle is 75 feet long. There are 19 pews on each side of the sanctuary.

There are two 7-branch at the church. Candles need to be provided by the bride and groom and need to be dripless. If a Unity candle is to be used in the ceremony, the couple is expected to supply it and the two lighting tapers.

All decorations should be removed after the wedding that day since the sanctuary will be used the next morning. Flowers are appreciated if left for the Sunday worship services. Please make such arrangements in advance with the pastor

Indiana Marriage Laws

The legal age for marriage without parental consent is 18 for both male and female. At age 17, parental consent is required. Both applicants must present proof of birth date. Applicants, age 22 and under, MUST present a birth certificate. Applicants, age 23 and over, may present a valid driver's license or other state issued ID with date of birth and current address. If address is incorrect, provide a current utility bill (water, cable, NIPSCO) or mortgage or lease papers with your name and current address.

The marriage license must be obtained from the County Clerk's office (both persons to be married must go to the office): Valparaiso - Records Dept., 2nd Floor of the Porter Co. Courthouse, 155 Indiana Avenue, Valparaiso, IN 46383. Hours: 8:30 am - 4 pm, Monday - Friday. (If both applicants are out-of-state residents, they must apply for a license in the county in which they are to be married.)

The cost of the license is \$18 (cash) per couple if Indiana residents; \$60 for out-of-state residents. The license is valid for 60 days.

*Application for Wedding to be held at
Porter United Methodist Church*

Bride's Name:

Address:

Phone _____ Work Phone _____

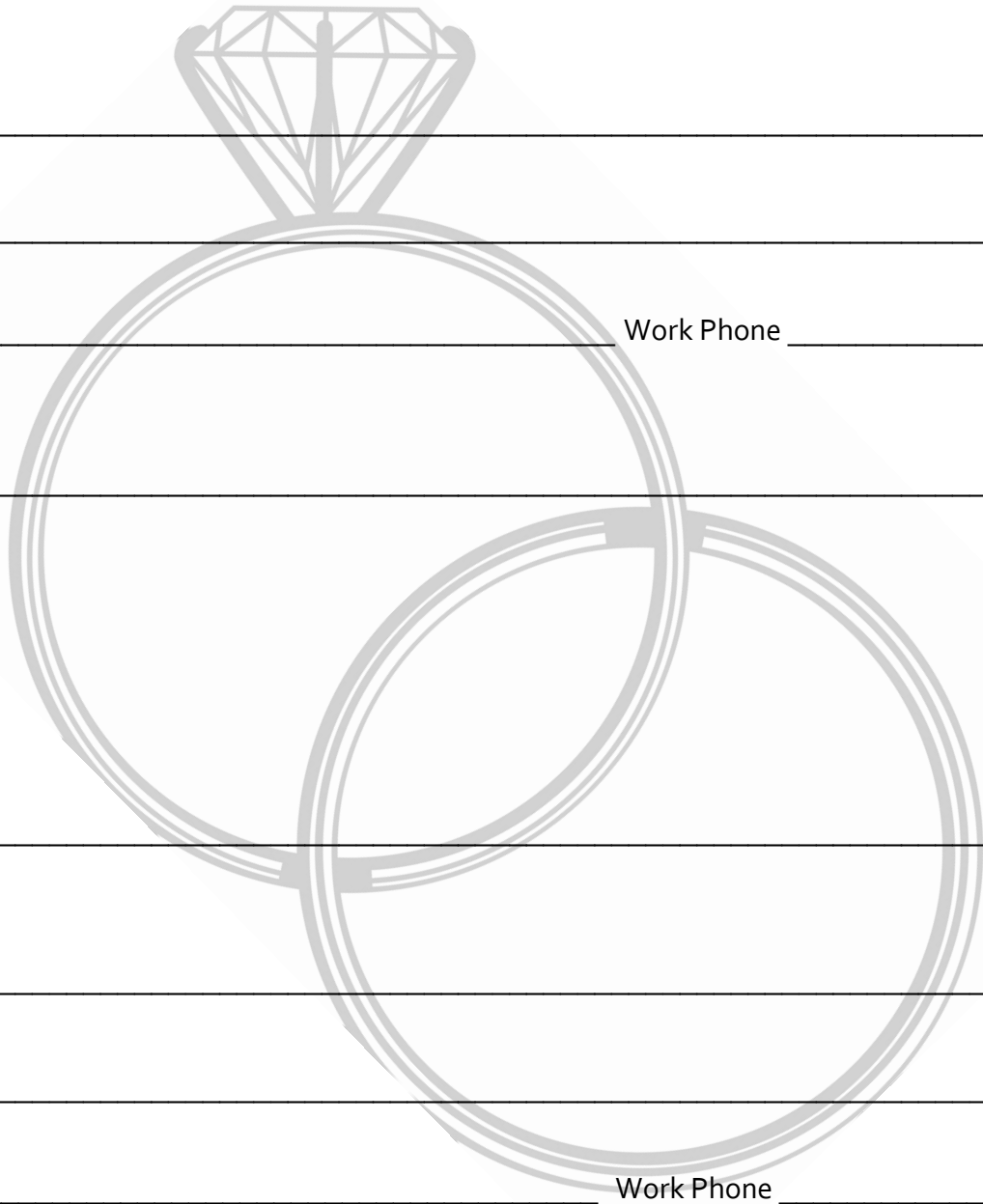
Email Address:

Groom's Name

Address

Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email Address :



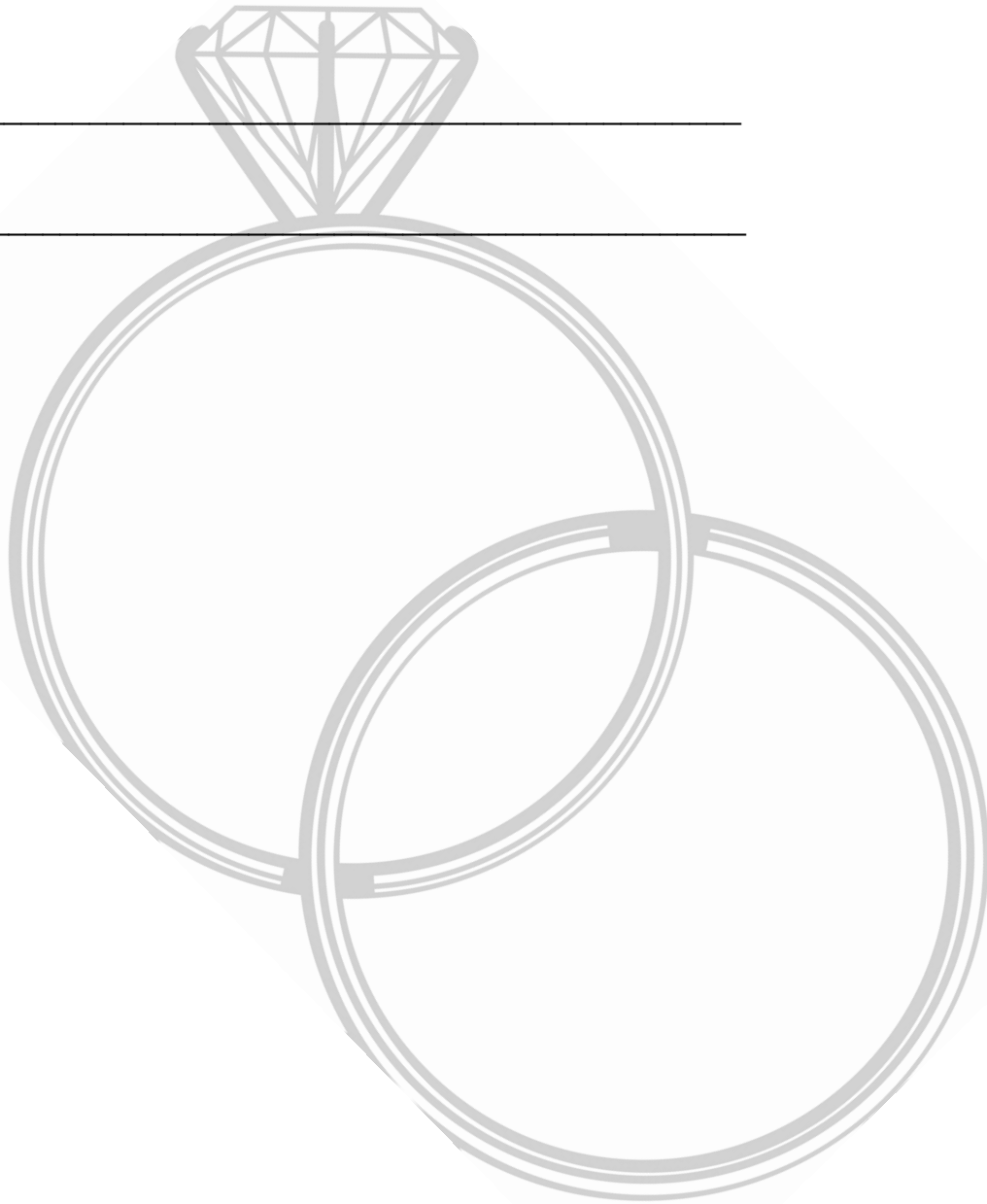
I understand and agree to these regulations for the wedding to be held in the sanctuary on _____ at _____ o'clock. The wedding reception is to be held at _____.

Officiating Clergy Preference _____.

Signatures:

Bride: _____

Groom: _____



Please return this form and \$100 deposit (if applicable) to the attention of:

Kim Allmon, Administrative Assistant
Porter United Methodist Church
100 E. Beam Street
Porter, IN 46304