

# Weddings

at Minnehaha United Methodist Church

At Minnehaha United Methodist Church, we provide a caring gathering place to worship God and grow spiritually. This includes the holy union of marriage.



## Review Our Policies and Procedures

We want to help you make your wedding both memorable and spiritually meaningful. In order to ensure this, you and your guests must agree to respect our church policies and procedures, and the sanctity of our church building.



## Get to Know Our Church

You are encouraged to visit the church during worship. Our services are usually at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Also, the church office is open Tuesday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## Schedule Your Wedding Date

Contact the church's Office Administrator at (612) 721-6231 or [office@minnehaha.org](mailto:office@minnehaha.org) to check on the availability of your preferred wedding date. Also, discuss possible scheduling conflicts for the wedding ceremony, photography time, and the wedding rehearsal (usually the evening before).

## Get a License

Couples are responsible for securing a marriage license and any other documentation for the ceremony. Note that Minnesota has a waiting period for marriage licenses, so don't wait until the last minute.

## Select Your Officiant

The Officiant performs the legal wedding ceremony. Clergy and others with credentials recognized by the State of Minnesota may perform marriages at the church. Clergy from states other than Minnesota must register their credentials in order to perform the ceremony.

- Our Pastor, Rev. Becky Sechrist, marries couples who have made clear their intent through preparation and, if necessary, counseling. She usually meets with couples two to four times before the marriage ceremony.
- The church's Office Administrator can provide a list of United Methodist Pastors who may be available to perform your wedding if Pastor Sechrist is unavailable.

## Work with Your Wedding Host

The church will assign you a Wedding Host. This person opens the church, sets it up for the ceremony, runs the audio system (unless an audio technician is required), and resets the sanctuary and secures the building afterwards.



- Schedule an appointment with your Wedding Host several weeks before your wedding to discuss ceremony details.
- Your Wedding Host will contact you a month before the wedding to go over your plans and will be at the rehearsal to assist the Officiant.
- You'll be asked to name a family member or friend who will work with the Wedding Host before, during, and after the ceremony to make sure everything goes as planned.

## Timing is Everything

- The wedding rehearsal will be scheduled for one hour. The church will be open at least 15 minutes before the rehearsal. Decorating is usually done at this time.
- On your wedding day, you'll have access to the church for five hours. This includes the ceremony, dressing, photography, and any fellowship time afterward. This means you need to arrive no more than 3½ hours before the ceremony. (Assuming photography before the ceremony.)
- Two dressing rooms are available, one for the bridal party, one for the groomsmen. During summer months these rooms, along with the church office, are air-conditioned.

## **Decorations, Seating and Flowers**

- A single altar arrangement is traditional, but you may wish to display additional arrangements – or none at all. Only living flowers/plants may be used on the altar.
- The aisle is 75 feet long. (This does not include the steps to the Chancel).
- Tacks or sharp objects are NOT to be used to secure decorations to pews or chairs.
- Please note that the first several rows of chairs allow for flexible and accessible seating, so there are not traditional pew ends.
- A set of candelabra, holding seven candles each, are available for use. If you wish to use them, you must supply fourteen drip-free candles.
- Flowers must be delivered while the wedding party is at the church. Coordinate the time with your Wedding Host.

## **Grand Piano and Tracker Pipe Organ**

Our sanctuary has a grand piano and a tracker pipe organ. Our organist must be your first contact for organ music. His rates begin at \$150 (this does not include the wedding rehearsal) and will vary depending on your requests. You may bring in your own music, pianist, or other musicians with permission.

## **Do You Need an Audio Technician?**

Minnehaha has a high quality sound system. Standard capabilities include three microphones and the ability to use recorded music. An audio technician is required for ceremonies where extended services are needed.

## **A Few Rules for Photography/ Videography**

Taking photos and video recording during wedding ceremonies is permitted, provided it is NOT intrusive to the service (i.e., no flash). Your Officiant may have additional preferences.

## **Alcohol-Free Facility**

Minnehaha is an alcohol-free facility.

## **Reception Space Holds 195 People**

Minnehaha has a large social hall called the Fellowship Hall, seating a maximum of 195 persons, and a commercial kitchen. There is a charge for using these two spaces, which includes tables and chairs, staging of food in the kitchen, and a reception host (a church member who shows you how to properly use the equipment and facility). Additional fees may apply based on the specific needs of the event.

## **Seating and Table Service**

We have 15 round tables that seat 8 people each. Linens and table service may be rented from Midway Party Rental at (651) 644-0005 or the company of your choice.

## **General Information and Miscellaneous Details**

- Minnehaha is fully accessible, including the altar. There is flexible seating in both the front and rear of the sanctuary to accommodate wheel chairs and other special needs.
- Our sanctuary comfortably seats up to 300 people.
- We have a center aisle that's about 75 feet long.
- There is no air-conditioning in the sanctuary. Electric fans can be positioned in the outside aisles if needed.
- There is no smoking or alcohol consumption allowed anywhere in the church or within 30 feet of the building.

## **Your Minnehaha UMC Contacts**

- Rev. Becky Sechrist, Pastor:  
[becky@minnehaha.org](mailto:becky@minnehaha.org)
- Heather Klein, Secretary:  
[office@minnehaha.org](mailto:office@minnehaha.org)

## **Check Out Our Fee Schedule**

If you'd like to look at a current fee schedule, go to: [www.minnehaha.org/weddings\\_funerals.html](http://www.minnehaha.org/weddings_funerals.html).



## **Minnehaha United Methodist Church**

3701 East 50th Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417  
612/721-6231 • [www.minnehaha.org](http://www.minnehaha.org)