

Weddings – Non-members

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding!

We look forward to assisting you with your wedding plans. First Parish in Cambridge's historic meetinghouse has been the site of many beautiful weddings. We also have a chapel for a more intimate ceremony and reception space for rent.

All weddings at First Parish in Cambridge must be conducted by one of the congregation's ministers, or by a guest clergyperson approved in advance by First Parish in Cambridge. Rev. Fred Small is only available to officiate for the weddings of members of the congregation. Rev. Lilia Cuervo is available to officiate at a limited number of non-member weddings including ceremonies that are bi-lingual in Spanish or Portuguese. Honorarium amount for First Parish ministers is \$400-\$500. Honorarium is \$500-\$600 for a bi-lingual ceremony. Although we cannot promise a minister will be available for your wedding we can provide you with the names of Unitarian Universalist ministers who are usually available. If you would like to use clergy not on the list, the person must be approved in advance by First Parish in Cambridge. (Non-resident clergy must file a Petition to Solemnize Marriage with the state of Massachusetts.)

To begin the rental process, please contact Carol Rabs, Office Coordinator, at 617-776-7772, or office@fpcambridge.org. You may arrange a visit to see the available space.

If you wish to reserve the space, please print, complete, and submit the Rental Agreement Form.

Facilities:

Meetinghouse (for ceremony) Fee: \$600 Seating Capacity: 400 (total of 600 if including balcony)

Crothers Chapel (for ceremony) Fee: \$400 Seating Capacity: 80

Fees are for any part of four hours. For rentals over four hours, additional fees may apply. Access for decorating must be included within the allotted time. If additional time for substantial decorating is required, advance arrangements with the Facilities Manager will need to be negotiated regarding scheduling and fees. The sexton (custodian) is present to open and close the doors and monitor heating and security, but not to set-up or clean-up wedding materials. Time for a rehearsal is included in the rental fee. Only the spaces agreed to in the contract may be used by the wedding party. Wedding fees do not cover the rental of the entire church building, but only individual

spaces within the church. Other activities may be taking place concurrently in the building.

Parlor and/or Barn Room are available for receptions, rehearsal dinners etc. See the normal rental schedule for fees.

Sexton

A minimum fee of \$120 for the first four hours (rehearsal and ceremony combined), and \$30 for each additional hour or part thereof. The sexton is required for weddings larger than 20 guests/participants combined or if a non-staff clergy person is performing the ceremony.

Music

Organist for a Wedding Ceremony: \$250 (includes a one-hour consultation with couple)
There is a \$50 additional charge per 15 minute increments for ceremonies beginning more than 10 minutes past the scheduled time.

Wedding Rehearsal: \$75

Rehearsal with soloist or instrumentalist : \$60 (per hour or fraction thereof)

Organ music for weddings at the church is provided by the First Parish organist. If you prefer to engage a guest organist, you must get the approval of the First Parish organist. If the guest organist is approved, the First Parish organist will be paid a bench fee of \$50 for instructing the guest organist on the use of the instrument. To arrange for the services of Jonathan Barnhart, the Church organist, or to discuss approval of a guest organist, you may phone him at 617-524-2447.

You are permitted to engage other instrumentalists at will. Approval is not required for a pianist or other instrumentalists.

If you plan to use the piano, there is a \$135 charge for the tuner. You may use the piano for \$50 without tuning.

Others (Florist, caterer, etc.)

First Parish in Cambridge does not provide or recommend any particular floral or catering services. However, please make sure that the companies you choose are in touch with our Office Coordinator to coordinate access to the building. Please note that church office hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.