



## THE OLD MEETING HOUSE

1620 Center Road  
East Montpelier Center, VT 05602  
802.229.9593

[www.oldmeetinghouse.org](http://www.oldmeetinghouse.org)  
[admin@oldmeetinghouse.org](mailto:admin@oldmeetinghouse.org)

In accordance with Jesus' teaching, the Old Meeting House seeks to honor all people as our neighbors. Our congregation welcomes **all** to full participation in membership, mission, and ministry without discrimination due to race, gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical, mental, or emotional condition, or educational or financial situation or background.

The Old Meeting House is an Open and Affirming Church with strong denominational ties to the United Church of Christ.  
This means that everyone – EVERYONE – is welcome!

*The Rev. Elissa Johnk, Senior Pastor The Rev. David Connor, Associate Pastor  
June Morse, Pianist and Music Director*

### Fees for Weddings at The Old Meeting House

Use of the church sanctuary and the facilities at the Parish House	\$225
Sexton's fee	\$50
Services of Music Director	\$75
Pastoral Services	<i>at the discretion of the pastor</i>

Payment of these fees is required of non-members one month before the service. Except for the fees for the Music Director and the Sexton, payment is optional in the case of active church members.

The Parish House may be rented for a bridal shower, rehearsal dinner, reception or other special events related to your celebration, following the fee schedule for rental of the Parish House. The use of alcoholic beverages on church property is restricted.

A nonrefundable reservation fee of \$50 is due when the date of the wedding is set. This may be applied toward the Sexton's fee.

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Music Director: (802)229-113  
(802)229-9593

## Congratulations!

The people of the Old Meeting House extend to you our best wishes at this important and happy moment of your lives.

We are glad that you have chosen this beautiful and historic church as the place for your wedding.

This information has been prepared to help you plan your wedding ceremony. Included is a set of questions, suggestions and tips for planning your ceremony. Also included are a proposed outline for the service itself, with examples of vows, exchanges of rings, hymns, and scriptures and readings often used.

As you plan your wedding, in order to assure that it is meaningful for all who are involved, we want to share with you our “top-ten” logistical suggestions and guidelines.

**Scheduling:** To schedule your wedding, please contact the church to speak with our pastor at least two months before the desired date for your ceremony. The earlier you make this contact, the more likely it is that the pastor and church will be available on the date you desire. When you call the pastor, be ready with the desired date and time of the ceremony. Unless it is unavailable, the rehearsal will be scheduled for the same time as the wedding on the previous day. All rental forms will be completed through the Administrative Assistant.

**Planning Sessions:** When you call, the pastor will speak with you about scheduling planning sessions with you as a couple. These sessions provide an opportunity for the pastor and the couple to get to know each other and to reflect on your hopes and expectations. In many cases, it is usual for these sessions to include discussions about the strengths and weaknesses of your partnership. To facilitate these discussions, Elissa is certified in the use of Prepare/Enrich curriculum. This curriculum includes an online survey that both individuals complete independently. The results are used as a discussion tool. I strongly encourage all couples to consider using this program in order to further support the intended marriage.

**Service Plan:** You are encouraged to think about the kind of service you want, and to share your ideas with the pastor. The ceremony is meant to be meaningful in each of its parts. You are invited to discuss with the pastor the wording and arrangements that will be the most meaningful for you and the community that supports you.

There is no fixed form that must be used, although there are traditional forms which may be chosen. The only requirement is that your service bear witness to the Christian idea of a lasting, committed relationship of deep love and sharing. All questions, problems and details about the wedding should be worked out with the minister by the end of the rehearsal.

**Music:** The pastor will provide assistance in helping you decide exactly what kind of music you would like for your ceremony as well as suggesting possible vocal soloists or instrumentalists. June Morse, the Music Director, will also be available to help you.

**Decoration and Photography:** The church may be decorated to your taste, but the simple beauty of the worship space needs little adornment. Please do not plan to tape or otherwise fasten anything to the pews except by the use of pew hooks available through your florist. Please consider carefully the amount of photographs you have taken during the ceremony. Multiple photographers, particularly during the exchange of vows and rings can distract from the sanctity of the moment and service.

**Confetti, rice, etc:** Throwing rice and confetti on the church entryway and front steps creates a major clean-up problem, so we ask that you and your guests please refrain from doing it.

**Reception:** Both the Parish House and the lawn are available for receptions upon request and for a fee. Please see #8.

**Alcohol:** The use of alcoholic beverages on church property is prohibited. The members of the wedding party are to be advised by the couple to refrain from drugs and excessive alcohol use both before the wedding rehearsal and ceremony.

**License:** The marriage license must be in the possession of the minister no later than the wedding rehearsal, or the day before the wedding.

### Vermont Wedding License Information

**Wedding license is required (which does not involve a blood test). License must be applied for by both persons at the town clerk's office where they reside. There is no waiting period between date of application and the wedding date. License is good for 60 days.**

**Fees:** A standard schedule of fees is listed on the next page. All financial matters should be coordinated through our Pastoral Administrator. (admin@oldmeetinghouse.org or 802.229.9593)