

# YOUR WEDDING DAY



Love bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things. Love  
never ends

Corinthians 13:7-8



**CHURCH OF THE TRINITY**  
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

7225 Lockwood Ridge Road  
Sarasota, FL 34243  
941.355.0847

*Loving God. Loving People.*

**What greater thing for two human souls  
Than to feel that  
They are joined for life,  
To strengthen each other in all sorrow,  
To minister to each other in all need,  
To share all joy,  
To be with each other  
In silent inexpressible memory.**

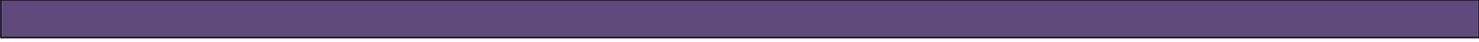
**Author Unknown**

**Congratulations on your upcoming wedding and this commitment to one another.**

**Metropolitan Community Churches have performed weddings for same gender and opposite gender couples since 1968.**

**We hope this guide gives you basic information on planning your ceremony and how Church of the Trinity, our pastors, and staff can be a resource to you.**

**Rev. Donna Twardowski  
Associate Pastor**



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## Facilities

Weddings are held in our beautiful sanctuary, which can seat up to 200 people. The sanctuary of Trinity serves as the focal point of the church with a long center aisle that leads to the front of the sanctuary and altar where weddings are performed.

The sanctuary building is graced by beautifully landscaped grounds. "The Land" of 22 acres is dotted with large oak trees and an open meadow, perfect for photo opportunities following the ceremony.

A Labyrinth is also located on this property and serves as a place of meditation and solace.

## Fees

•Sanctuary use for members	No Charge
•Sanctuary use for non-members	\$200
•Pastoral Services (Includes planning and officiating your ceremony)	\$200
Pre-Martial Counseling (up to three sessions, if requested) \$100	
•Pianist for Wedding & Rehearsal	\$100
•Pianist for Wedding only	\$100
•Sound A/V Tech	\$50
•Soloists/Musician each	\$50
•Facility cleaning and maintenance (Required for all facility use)	\$100

## **Reserving the Date & Planning the Ceremony**

### **Step 1**

- The first step is to complete the Wedding Questionnaire which you will find inside the “Your Wedding Day” folder. This folder is available at our church office or by going onto our website at
- Your wedding will then be scheduled and confirmed by staff on the master church building calendar.

### **Step 2**

- The next step is to schedule a meeting for your interview with one of our pastors. We currently have three pastors available to perform Christian and interfaith religious wedding. In addition we have deacons who are available to preform ceremonies, if our pastoral staff is not available.
- During this interview, if you, as a couple, demonstrate your sincere intention to enter into a Christian marriage, your wedding date with the church will then be confirmed.
- You will also be required to participate in further premarital counseling as agreed upon between you and the pastor, if necessary.

### **Step 3**

- We have a wide variety of resources available to help you find just the right readings, scripture, music and rituals to make your wedding a unique expression of your love.

## **Other Considerations:**

- Due to Sunday worship, our staff typically does not perform weddings on Sundays.
- If your wedding requires detailed planning (rehearsals, appointments with photographers, videographers, musicians, florists, etc.) we strongly recommend that you hire a wedding planner to manage the details of your special day. Our pastors will help you plan the actual ceremony and officiate the day of your wedding. Contact: Michael Poplawski at (941) 769-1535 or email: [info@the-rainbowknot.com](mailto:info@the-rainbowknot.com)

<http://www.the-rainbowknot.com/> for information on wedding vendors and planners

- Due to other ministry obligations, our pastors do not attend wedding rehearsals, dinners, receptions, etc.
- We strongly recommend that couples have been in relationship a minimum of one year prior to marriage.

### **If you are looking for a simple beach wedding, contact:**

Rev. Avis Shiveler Brangan  
318 Jay Street  
Venice, FL 34293-5960  
Telephone: (941) 412-4114

[www.simpleseasideceremonies.com](http://www.simpleseasideceremonies.com) (Rev. Brangan is not affiliated with Metropolitan Community Churches)

## Signs a church ceremony might be right for you and your partner:

You have drifted from the church, but as you prepare for your wedding/ holy union you find yourself seeking a Community of faith.

You appreciate the chance to focus on matters of the spirit in the midst of wedding planning stress.

You have worshipped here and found yourself moved.

You want your marriage to be associated with Church of the Trinity and its core values.

You can imagine the members of this church holding you in prayer.

You sense that your marriage is about more than the two of you.

You find yourself praying.

This experience is causing you and your partner to talk about your faith and your aspirations for a faith community as a couple.

You don't have it all figured out yet, but this church feels like a blessing to start you on your way.

You can't wait for the wedding.

## Marriage License

- The State of Florida requires that both parties apply in person for a marriage license. This may be done up to 60 days before the wedding
- The ceremony may not take place within 72 from the exact time that the license was issued.
- You must bring the marriage license to the wedding ceremony. The license is required by law to be in the pastor's hands before the ceremony may begin.

## **Music and Video**

- Photographers and other individuals may take photos during the wedding ceremony. A conversation with the clergy, wedding party and photographer will take place before the ceremony to inform the photographer of where and when pictures may take place during the service. (The hope is to limit all distractions).
- Unattended video cameras may be place in an unobtrusive area, with the approval of the pastor.
- The church pianist will provide 15 minutes of music before the service, and any music that you would like during the ceremony.
- We are happy to make accommodations for a visiting organist, musician or singer to perform at your wedding. You will need to contact our own pianist so that further detailed arrangements may be made.

## **Rules, Regulations & Responsibilities**

- Use of any alcohol or tobacco products are prohibited on the church premises.
- Throwing rice or bird seed on church premises is prohibited. This can be extremely slippery and dangerous, and may become a liability to attendees.