



Wedding Guide

At Minnehaha United Methodist Church we seek, we serve, we celebrate, and we carry our faith into our community and the world. We provide a caring gathering place to worship God and grow spiritually.

The marriage service is sacred and one of the most beautiful of all the services of the church. It is always a worship service in which two persons in the company of God, their loved ones and friends pledge themselves to each other under the blessing of God and are united by God in holy wedlock. We feel sure that you will look upon your wedding as a service of worship. The United Methodist Church has emphasized God as the center of the ceremony.

It is our desire, in inviting you into our sanctuary, to help you make your wedding a memorable event, beautiful and spiritually meaningful. It is to this end that the following procedures and policies have been developed. By accepting our invitation, you and your guests are agreeing to respect these policies and procedures and the sanctity of our church building.

Revised 9/09

Minnehaha United Methodist Church - Good Things Happen Here!

3701 East 50th Street, Minneapolis Minnesota 55417 612/721-6231(voice) 612/721-7289 (fax) www.minnehaha.org

The church contact information:

Minnehaha United Methodist Church
3701 East 50th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55417

612/721-6231 (phone) www.minnehaha.org (web site)

Church office hours are Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (may vary in summer).

To get here:

Take Crosstown/Highway 62 to the Hiawatha/Highway 55 traffic light.
Go north (which is labeled Hwy 55 West) on Hiawatha to 50th Street.
Make a left on 50th Street and proceed west to 37th Ave South (about 6 blocks)

or

Take the Ford Bridge across the river. The bridge becomes 46th Street.
Continue on 46th Street to Hiawatha Ave.
Make a left on Hiawatha and proceed south to 50th Street (through the tunnel)
Turn right onto 50th Street and proceed west to 37th Ave South (about 6 blocks)

General Information:

- Minnehaha is fully accessibly, 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 seats 250 people easily, more if the ushers are assertive. We have a center aisle, approximately 75 feet long.
- There is no air-conditioning in the sanctuary. Hand fans are available. Electric fans can be positioned in the outside aisles if needed.
- There is no smoking or alcohol consumption allowed anywhere in the church.

Church Staff & Direct e-mail:

Rev. Cooper Wigger, Pastor cooper@minnehaha.org
Barbara Hays, Traditional Music barbhays@gmail.com
Van Nixon, Contemporary Music vanbnix@hotmail.com

Scheduling the Date

Contact the office administrator at the church to verify the availability of your preferred wedding date. You should discuss possible conflicts for the wedding ceremony, photography time and the wedding rehearsal (usually the evening before). Specific times for the rehearsal and wedding will be set with the Officiate and Wedding Host.

Officiate

The Officiate is the person performing the legal wedding ceremony. Minnehaha invites clergy and others with credentials recognized by the State of Minnesota to perform marriages. Clergy from other states can register their credentials permitting them to perform ceremonies.

Our Pastor, Rev. Cooper Wigen, marries couples who have made clear their intent through preparation and, if necessary, counseling. He typically will meet with a couple two to four times before the marriage ceremony.

The Office Administrator can provide a list of United Methodist Pastors who may be available to perform the wedding if Pastor Wigen is unavailable.

Wedding Host

Minnehaha assigns a Wedding Host for every ceremony. This is a member of our congregation who knows the building. This person is responsible for opening the church, setting up for the ceremony, running the audio system (unless an audio technician is required), and, after the wedding, resetting the sanctuary and securing the building. The Wedding Host will be at the rehearsal to assist the Officiate. Each wedding couple is asked to identify a family member, or friend, who will work with the Wedding Host after the ceremony to get everything squared away.

Music

Our sanctuary has a grand piano and a tracker pipe organ. Our organist, Barbara Hays, must be your first contact for organ music. Her rates begin at \$150 (this does not include the wedding rehearsal) and vary depending on your requests. You may bring in your own music, pianist or other musicians. barbhays@gmail.com, 651/490-1272

Sound

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.

Photography/Videography

Taking photos and recording during wedding ceremonies is permitted, providing it is NOT intrusive to the service (ie: no flash). Your officiate may have additional preferences.

License

Couples are responsible for securing a marriage license and any other documentation for the ceremony. Please take note that Minnesota has a "waiting period" for marriage licenses and this should not be left for the last minute.

Church Access You are welcome, and encouraged, to visit the church during worship. The church office is typically open Monday through Friday from 9am to 3pm. It is recommended you schedule an appointment with the office administrator several weeks prior to your wedding to discuss the ceremony details.

Your wedding rehearsal will be scheduled for one hour (the church will be open at least 15 minutes before the scheduled time). Usually, decorating can be done during the rehearsal time.

On your wedding day, you will have access to the church for five hours; this includes the ceremony, dressing, photography, and any fellowship time afterward. Typically this means you can arrive no more than 3½ hours prior to the ceremony (assuming photography before the ceremony).

There is a dressing room for women on the lower level of the church. Men dress in the childcare rooms on the main level. (These spaces, and the church office, have air-conditioning.)

Decorations

- ◆ A single altar arrangement is traditional but you may wish to display additional arrangements or none at all.
- ◆ 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 the pews.
- ◆ Please note that the first several rows of seating are chairs to allow for flexible and accessible seating so there are not traditional pew ends.
- ◆ We have a set of candelabra, holding seven candles each, which you are welcome to use. You must supply fourteen drip-free candles if you wish to use them.
- ◆ Flower delivery to the church should be while the wedding party is here.

Reception Space

Minnehaha has a large social hall and kitchen. There is a minimum charge for using this space which includes tables and chairs, staging food in the kitchen and a reception host (a church member responsible for directing others in the proper use of the equipment and facility). Additional fees are assessed based on the specific needs of the event. **Minnehaha Church is an alcohol-free zone.**

Linens and table service may be rented from Midway Party Rental or the company of your choosing. 651/644-0005

We have 15 round tables seating 8 people each.

Fees For Weddings

Members are defined as couples actively attending worship and contributing to the missions of Minnehaha United Methodist Church.

Associates are couples who have a connection to the congregation, but are not currently active in the life of the church. (Often relatives of members, visitors, past members)

Non-members are those couples who have little or no connection to our congregation, but wish to be married in our church. Non-members are asked to make a \$200 deposit at the time the date is reserved. This is then applied to the church fee.

All fees must be paid prior to the wedding rehearsal. Separate checks should be prepared for each line item (Pastor, Wedding Host, church, etc).

	Non-Members	Associates	Members
Church	\$500	\$250	Free Will
Pastor	\$350	\$350	Free Will
Wedding Host	\$100	\$100	\$100
Organist	\$150 and up	\$150 and up	\$150 and up
Audio Technician <i>(if needed-required for any use of sound system)</i>	\$50	\$50	\$50
Reception Space	\$250 for 1 st 2 hours \$100 each add. hr	\$150 and up	Free Will
Kitchen	\$100	\$100	Free Will
Kitchen host	\$100	\$100	Free Will
Custodial	\$100	\$100	Free Will

