

## In Closing

Develop your wedding plans early and then relax. Too often the days just preceding the wedding can be bursting with frantic activity for the couple and the wedding party, leaving little time for contemplation of the spiritual significance of the wedding. Whatever details must be sacrificed, come to the day of your wedding relaxed and rested.

It is our hope that this booklet will help you in your planning, advise you in your choices, and encourage you to look forward to your wedding as one of the most memorable and beautiful experiences in your Christian life.

May you experience the reality of the closing prayer of the wedding service:

Almighty and ever-blessed God, whose presence is the happiness of every condition, and whose favor hallows every relation: We ask You to be present and favorable unto these your servants that they may be truly joined in the honorable estate of marriage, in the covenant of their God...

And now, as You have brought them together by Your providence, sanctify them by Your Spirit, giving them a new frame of heart fit for their new estate; and enrich them with all grace, whereby they may enjoy the comforts, undergo the cares, endure the trials, and perform the duties of life together as becomes Christians, under Your heavenly guidance and protection; through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

HILLTOP CHURCH  
14 HILLTOP ROAD  
MENDHAM, NJ 07945

# YOUR WEDDING AT HILLTOP CHURCH

(PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U.S.A.)  
ESTABLISHED IN 1738



## Thank You!

Thank you for inquiring about having your wedding at Hilltop Church. We are honored by your interest. The pastor, session and staff offer our congratulations. We hope to have the opportunity to help you fulfill your plans and dreams.

## Christian Marriage Covenant

Hilltop Church is committed to the understanding that Christian marriage is sacred and therefore takes place within Christian worship as we affirm that “marriage is instituted of God, regulated by God’s commandments, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ and so to be held in honor among all people.” At Hilltop we recognize that although weddings have social and civil implications, the wedding service itself is an act of worship in which a covenant between two people and their Lord is faithfully established. With this in mind, the following guidelines will apply to all weddings celebrated at Hilltop.

## Making a Reservation

Before announcing the date of your marriage service please consult with the pastor to see if the time will be mutually acceptable. Normally this is done six months in advance. At least one premarital counseling appointment is required. The pastor will ask the church office manager to provide you with the proper forms and information to place your wedding on the church calendar pending session approval. Session approval will be granted when all necessary forms have been returned and deposits have been submitted.

## Wedding Assistants

After the wedding date has been approved by the session a wedding assistant will be appointed for each wedding. These are members of our congregation trained to assist at the rehearsal and on the day of the wedding.



## Hilltop Wedding Check List

Call the **Pastor** to Check on Rehearsal and Wedding Dates and Times **6-8 months in advance.**

Fill out the **Marriage Service Agreement** and return it to the Office with your Deposit.

Have your **Pre-marital Counseling** Session with the Pastor, schedule follow up appointments as needed.

Contact the **Director of Music** and make an appointment to go over the music.

Contact the **Wedding Assistant** and make an appointment.

Make sure the **Photographer** (and Videographer) are aware of the church **photography policies.**

Procure your **marriage license** and bring it and any outstanding fees to the church office at least five days before your wedding day.

**Come to the Rehearsal and Wedding Day Ready to Rejoice!**

## Music

Following the meeting with the pastor the couple should arrange to meet with the director of music ministries to discuss the appropriate music for their wedding. Appropriate music provides a reverent and sacred setting for all services in the church including the wedding ceremony.

To that end, trivial music, romantic love songs, theatre music, and popular secular tunes are discouraged in the worship setting. Such music can be more appropriately shared at the reception.

Vocal solos, hymns, and any other special music should be discussed with the director of music ministries well in advance of the service so that the proper arrangements can be made.

All musical selections and musicians to be included in the service must be approved by the director of music ministries.

## Decorations

Little or no decoration need be added to the beauty of Hilltop sanctuary. Since this is “none other than the House of the Lord” an extravagant display which might be in order in a secular setting is out of place here and restraint is called for.

## Photography

Few photos will be allowed in the sanctuary until after the benediction has been pronounced. The pastor or wedding assistants will discuss the proper procedures with photographers before the service. The pastor will arrange for re-enactment of any portion of the service after the ceremony at which time better pictures can be taken. Flash picture may be taken from aisle for the processional and recessional only. Only time exposures and video recording from the balcony are permitted during the service. There is no flash photography, and the photographer will not be in view during the service.