



Wedding Information

Garden City Community Church
245 Stewart Avenue
Garden City, NY 11530
(516) 746-1700
Website: www.theGCCC.org
e-mail: churchoffice@theGCCC.org

Congratulations: if you are reading this, you are about to embark on a wonderful adventure with your soulmate! The clergy and staff of the Garden City Community Church, a Protestant Church in the United Church of Christ, are delighted to share this special day with you.

"Walk in love, as Christ has loved us."

Ephesians 5:1

The Christian tradition affirms marriage as a holy covenant between committed couples. The worship service is a joyful and beautiful expression of your love and faith. Below is some information that will help you plan your ceremony.

Who can get married at our church? The GCCC is an open and affirming church. We welcome all people who wish to get married in our Chapel or Sanctuary. Members do have priority, and everyone is required to engage in pre-marital counseling. Off-site weddings are performed at the discretion of the minister.

Church Capacity: We can accommodate up to 300 guests (plus 50 more in the balcony) in the Sanctuary or 80 in the Chapel. There is wheelchair access via a ramp at the rear of the building.

Minister's Availability: Our church policy states: *"For weddings to be performed at the GCCC, one of the available GCCC pastors must serve as the presiding minister. Visiting clergy may be permitted to assist in the ceremony."* Once a deposit is received and the contract is signed, we officially reserve your chosen date and guarantee that a UCC-affiliated minister will be available for your wedding ceremony.

Pre-marriage counseling: We feel the best way to begin your journey together is through pre-marriage counseling. We have two separate counseling groups that reside in our building, who have created a special discounted rate for pre-marriage counseling, which we can provide upon request. You may also use a counselor of your choice. After the counseling is complete, the counselor must submit a required report to the presiding clergy.

Appointment with the Minister: Once your counseling is complete, you will meet with the clergy assigned to your wedding to go over the details of the ceremony. This should be at least **eight weeks before** your wedding date.

Music during the Ceremony: Our Minister of Music will be happy to help you select the music for your wedding and help with soloists or additional instrumentalists. All details need to be worked out at least **eight weeks before** your wedding date. CDs, iPods, or other electronic music devices are not permitted for use during the ceremony.

Wedding Coordinator: While a wedding coordinator is not necessary at our ceremonies, if you have contracted one, please provide us with their contact information and have them get in touch with the church office by phone or email.

Rehearsal: A rehearsal involving the entire wedding party is required to ensure that the ceremony runs smoothly. Generally, this is scheduled the day before the wedding, but please contact the church office to discuss dates and details.

Photographers and Videographers: In order to preserve the dignity of the wedding ceremony as a sacred service of worship, we have set regulations that must be followed (see wedding contract). Once on site, photographers and videographers must check in with our wedding sexton and presiding minister.

Flowers/Decorations: Please make your own arrangements with the florist of your choice and have them contact us regarding set up times and details.

Candlelight: If you desire a candlelit ceremony, our pews can be fitted with tall candlesticks. We do not recommend this in the summer months when the AC is on.

Unity Candle / Sand Ceremony: If you would like to incorporate a Unity Candle or Sand Ceremony, you must provide the candles and elements. We do have a candle stand if you would like to use it.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the church office by phone (516) 746-1700 or email (churchoffice@thegccc.org).

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