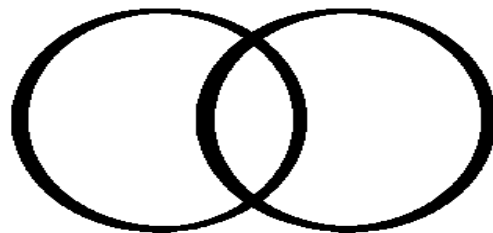




**MARRIAGE IN
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
33 East First Street
Corning, New York 14830**



While the decision to marry is a personal one between a man and a woman, the marriage event itself takes place within the context of a worshipping community, the church. The decision to marry in the church and the development of the celebration event will reflect a balance between the desires of the couple and the traditions of the Episcopal Church and Christ Church in particular.

These guidelines have been formulated by the Rector in consultation with the Worship Committee and Vestry to be as clear as possible about the expectations of Christ Church regarding marriage so that the people of Christ Church and the larger community may know the standards for marriage in this congregation.

CONDITIONS NEEDED TO BE PRESENT FOR MARRIAGE

The Canons (or laws) of the Episcopal Church require that a minimum notice of thirty days be given prior to a marriage and that at least one person being married be baptized. **The clergy of Christ Church request *six months notice to allow time for counseling and service preparation.***

An active relationship between one of the persons being married and Christ Church or the Episcopal Church must be present for a marriage to take place in this parish. Such relationships include:

1. Membership in Christ Church which is defined as:
 - a. communicant in good standing in the rolls of Christ Church; or
 - b. official transfer of membership from another Christian congregation.
 - c. or the expressed intent to become a member at Christ Church and participation in worship for a period of six months thereafter and prior to discussion of plans for marriage at Christ Church.

2. A child of a member(s) of Christ Church currently enrolled in college, graduate school, serving in the armed forces, or living in a distant community **and actively involved in an Episcopal church where he/she currently resides.**
3. A member of an Episcopal congregation in another community; a letter from the clergy or warden of that church indicating such membership is sufficient to meet this requirement.

PROCEDURES

While many couples feel the first step in planning their marriage is to establish a date with the church, the actual first step is for at least one of the persons seeking to be married to set an appointment with the clergy. At that appointment the criteria listed above are first explored. **That appointment should take place six months before the planned marriage date.** In the case of a divorced person wishing to remarry, special requirements must be met. The clergy will discuss these with the couple.

Should the couple meet that criteria, the priest will then receive basic information about the couple, outline procedures, and discuss fees and the wedding date.

If the participation of a member of the clergy from another denomination is desired, then procedures assuring that participation must be initiated immediately.

At least four sessions with a local priest form the basis of the preparation for the marriage.

1. Introductions - taking down basic information. Also covered are the Canons (laws) regarding marriage in the Episcopal Church.
2. Testing designed to assess the couple's preparedness for marriage.
3. Session together to address issues raised in Session 2.

4. Plan the service.

The actual pre-marital preparation (in 2 & 3 above) may be arranged with a member of the clergy or counselor in another city or religious denomination chosen in consultation with the clergy.

All preparation for the marriage should be completed thirty days prior to the marriage date.

MUSIC

The organist of Christ Church will be the organist at all weddings; or, should he or she be unable to be present, a person that he or she appoints. All decisions regarding music are made by the organist in consultation with the couple and the clergy.

Should the couple wish a soloist to sing, the organist has a list of persons who can perform this function. Sung music is also chosen in consultation with the organist. Instrumental music other than organ is also a possibility and such decisions will be made in consultation with the clergy and organist.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The photographer for the wedding should meet with the presiding clergy at least one-half hour before the celebration to discuss the opportunities and limits of his/her work during that celebration.

No flash photographs may be taken during the actual celebration at any time!

Photographers are not permitted to move around during the service.

Tripods, ladders and other equipment which impede the flow of the service are not permitted.

Posed photos in the church and with the clergy (including flash) may be taken after or before the celebration. **The couple is encouraged to consider having posed photographs taken one hour before the service in order to facilitate their timely arrival for the reception. In any case picture taking must conclude within one hour of the end of the service to allow for timely clean-up of the sanctuary.**

FLOWERS

Flowers in the church are usually placed at the high altar. The use of flowers in any other manner is discouraged. Such bouquets, if used, are arranged by the couple with their florist. There are two options for the flowers placed on the altar.

1. USE FLOWERS THAT HAVE BEEN DONATED FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP.

In this case the church purchases the flowers and a member of our altar guild arranges them. Current practice gives the donor of funds for the flowers the choice as to the kind, color, and florist, within certain guidelines.

2. FLOWERS ARE PURCHASED BY THE COUPLE THROUGH THEIR FLORIST.

In this instance the couple arranges with a florist of their choice for flowers. The florist may use only white paper mache or white milk glass short containers. After the wedding the couple may remove the flowers and dispose of them as they see fit.

THE USE OF AN AISLE "RUNNER" is discouraged. Used over the aisle rug it creates a dangerous hazard for women's shoe heels to catch in the cloth and rug. The aisle rug of Christ Church is kept clean and no undue soiling of a wedding gown train is expected.

The throwing of rice, bird seed, or flower petals is prohibited.

MARRIAGE LICENSE, FEES, GIFTS

The marriage license and all checks for fees and gifts (made out in the name of the individuals and/or the church) should be given to the priest at the rehearsal. The couple will be presented with a complete listing of expenses at least one week prior to the rehearsal. The following fees are required of a couple for all weddings at Christ Church.

MUSIC

All music-related fees are set by the organist and are payable directly to him or her.

Organist:	Wedding	\$150
	+ Rehearsal (optional)	
	+ Rehearsal (with soloist)	

CLERICAL & MAINTENANCE

Sexton:	\$15.50/hr.
(time will be "estimated" prior to the wedding)	
Aisle Candles (if used)	25
Wedding Bulletins (if supplied)	30

MISSION & MINISTRY

A contribution to Christ Church of \$500 is required from those couples or families who are other than members in good standing (and who have therefore already made a pledge). Such a contribution is for the support of the mission and ministry of Christ Church.

While the clergy do not charge active communicants for their participation, a couple often desires to make some gift to the clergy. Such gifts may take the form of a contribution to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. (This fund is used to assist persons in extreme need or hardship.)

If a supply clergy must be used (in the rector's absence) there will be a separate fee for that priest's compensation of no less than \$175.

No couple otherwise eligible to be married in Christ Church will be excluded from doing so on the basis of costs. Part or all of the fees listed above may be waived in cases of need. Please speak to the clergy if this is a concern when fees are discussed.

STAFF

Clergy (Church)	(607) 937-5449
Eugene Saunders (Warden)	962-5477
Daniel Minster (Warden)	739-4119
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CHECK LIST FOR MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Six Months Prior to the Marriage Day

Meet with the clergy of Christ Church.

Make arrangements for the involvement of other clergy, and/or counseling by another clergy/counselor.

Three Months Prior to the Marriage Day

Meet with organist to select special music.
(i.e. other organ or vocal or instrumental)

Thirty Days Prior to the Marriage Day

Conclude pre-marital preparation and service planning.
Consult with Christ Church flower person.

One Week Prior to the Rehearsal

Receive list of fees from the church office.

At the Rehearsal

Bring marriage license and all fees and give to the clergy.