

## **University Wedding Policy**

### **Who May Be Married in a Chapel of the University of the South?**

All Saints' Chapel, St. Augustine's Chapel, and the Chapel of the Apostles are available for marriage ceremonies when one of the persons to be married is:

- a student currently enrolled full time in the University, **or**
- a current member of the staff or faculty, or one of the University's governing boards, **or**
- a year-round resident of the Sewanee community, who has lived in Sewanee for at least one full year, **or**
- the direct offspring (i.e. son or daughter) of one of the above, **or**
- a graduate with a degree from either the College, the School of Theology, or the School of Letters.

In addition, there are these criteria:

- 1) At least one of person must be tied to a Christian worshiping community and provide the following:
  - a. A letter from your pastor/minister/priest attesting to this relationship, **and**
  - b. Separate letters (from both applicants) describing your reasons for wanting to be married in All Saints' Chapel, St. Augustine's Chapel, or the Chapel of the Apostles.
- 2) One of you must be a baptized Christian.
- 3) The canons (laws) of the Episcopal Church require a minimum of thirty days' notice to the clergy preceding the wedding date.
- 4) In the event that either one of you has previously been married and has had that union annulled or dissolved by a civil court, the officiating priest must request from his or her own bishop permission to solemnize the marriage.

The University reserves the rights to decline consent on any request made if the rationale behind being married here is contrary to our understanding of the sacrament of marriage.

### **Form of Service To Be Used**

All wedding services held in University chapels must conform to the worship tradition of the Episcopal Church as found in the *1979 Book of Common Prayer* and its authorized trial rites ["The Witnessing and Blessing of a Marriage" and "The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage (2)"].

### **Rites for Same-Sex Marriages**

"The Witnessing and Blessing of a Marriage" and "The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage (2)," authorized for trial use by The Episcopal Church for same-sex and opposite-sex couples, may be used in All Saints' Chapel, St. Augustine's Chapel, and the Chapel of the Apostles. The priest who presides acts under the direction and with the permission of his or her own bishop. The Chaplain or Dean will need written evidence from the presiding priest that he or she has permission to use these rites.

### **Who May Solemnize Your Wedding?**

All services are to be conducted by an Episcopal priest. (Ministers from other traditions may be invited to participate in the service but cannot be responsible for conducting the Episcopal rite.) The priest who is to solemnize the marriage must request permission in writing to preside. For weddings to be held in All Saints' Chapel or St. Augustine's Chapel, permission is sought from the University Chaplain. For weddings to be held in the Chapel of the Apostles, permission is sought from the Dean of the School of Theology. It is not necessary for that priest to write to the Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee or the Chancellor of the University for permission to officiate.

### **Marriage License**

Persons being married in a university chapel are required to obtain a marriage license from the state of Tennessee; this can be obtained at any courthouse across the state.

### **Wedding Guidelines**

For further guidance and additional requirements, see the separate guidelines for the particular chapel in which the wedding is to take place.