



TRINITY  
CHURCH  
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

### ***Getting Married at Trinity Church, Newport***

Congratulations on your decision to make this important commitment to each other in the presence of God and your community. Christian marriage is both a sacrament of the church and a vocation for Christians. Because we hold sacrament and vocation to be of primary importance, we ask for your cooperation in making your wedding at Trinity Church a holy and solemn ceremony.

Trinity Church is an Episcopal Church that has been in continuous use for over 300 years. The building is used for worship every Sunday and on other days and for special events during the year. The members of Trinity Church invite you to be married in this lovely, historic building in the heart of Newport. In order to preserve this structure, its furnishing, and its traditions, we ask that you observe the policies and guidelines outlined below.

### ***A Note about what makes a Christian Marriage***

*The Book of Common Prayer* makes clear the Episcopal Church's understanding of Christian marriage in the following passage: "Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God. In the Episcopal Church it is required that one, at least, of the parties must be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conform to the laws of the State and the canons of this Church." (*The Book of Common Prayer*, pg. 422)

### ***Who may be married at Trinity Church?***

Active members of Trinity Church and their close relatives (usually children or grandchildren) may be married at Trinity. At the Rector's discretion, non-members may be married here. (Please note that determining membership status for permission to marry here is separate from determining which fee structure applies to your wedding. Please see the section "Summary of Fees" on page four for information about expenses.) We certainly consider hospitality to be one of the principal Christian practices, and to that end we invite you to come and worship with us and consider whether this community will become your spiritual home. Membership is marked by regular attendance at worship, participation in the ministry of the church, and financial support of the parish. The start of your life together is the perfect time to join a church family, and we would love to include you in ours!

We also recognize that Newport is attractive as a destination for many couples. We welcome you to consider being married here, and will be happy to talk with you about whether this is the right place for your wedding.

### ***The First Step to being married at Trinity***

**Contact our Rector, The Rev. Anne Marie Richards ([rector@trinitynewport.org](mailto:rector@trinitynewport.org))** who will help you determine whether Trinity is the appropriate place for you to be married. Assuming that it is, we will settle on a date and time for your wedding and rehearsal (generally the evening before the wedding), and will send you a Wedding Information Form. Once that is returned to us, and your initial deposit is received, you may move forward with your arrangements, knowing that the church is reserved for you ceremony. Please note that at least 90 days notice is required for a wedding and that it is the custom of this parish not to celebrate weddings during the seasons of Lent and Advent. After initial approval from the Rector, your main point of contact will be our **Parish Administrator, Barbara Roos ([adminassistant@trinitynewport.org](mailto:adminassistant@trinitynewport.org))**.

### ***Officiating Clergy***

Trinity's Rector will normally officiate at member's weddings and, when possible, at other weddings. For those weddings not presided over by our Rector, any Episcopal priest may be invited to officiate. He / she should contact the Rector directly to discuss arrangements, and will need the permission of the Bishop of Rhode Island to officiate if he/she is not canonically resident or licensed in this diocese.

### ***Pre-marital Counseling***

The Episcopal Church requires premarital counseling and leaves to the discretion of each priest the nature of the counseling. Our Rector generally holds three or four sessions, which most couples find extremely valuable in helping them to learn how to use a third party to sort out relational issues as well as to explore the spiritual dimensions of their marriage. When couples live far from Trinity, it is possible to arrange for premarital counseling with a local priest, even if he / she is not officiating at the wedding. In some cases, the couple and priest may mutually discern that a licensed counselor should be consulted as well.

### ***The Service***

All weddings at Trinity conform to the rubrics of *The Book of Common Prayer*. The service, which begins on page 423 in the current Prayer Book (authorized in 1979), provides the complete structure and text. There are ample opportunities for friends and family to participate as readers, musicians, and the like. Couples are asked to select one or two Scripture readings. If you decide to include Holy Eucharist, one of your two readings must be from one of the Gospels. You can find suggested passages on page 426 of the Prayer Book, though you need not choose from this list alone. *Only Scripture passages may be read during the liturgy.*

### ***Music at Your Wedding***

Trinity has a splendid musical tradition. In addition to the organ we have an excellent carillon which may be rung immediately following the ceremony. Once you have confirmed the date of the service, contact **Brent Elwood Erstad (musicdirector@trinitynewport.org)**, Organist & Choirmaster, about service music. Brent will meet with you to help you choose music for the service. Please be aware that if, to accommodate the wishes of the bridal party, the Music Director does not play your wedding, he will still receive his normal fee. The typical service includes a *Prelude* before the ceremony; a *Processional* for the wedding party's entrance; *Service Music* (music during the ceremony) and the *Recessional* for the exit of the wedding party and guests. The customs of the Episcopal Church allow for a wide variety of sacred music, and all musical selections must be approved by the Organist and Choirmaster in consultation with the Rector. *Only sacred music, whether ancient or contemporary, may be used in your wedding liturgy.*

### ***Flowers and Decorations***

Consult with the **Altar Society Flower Chair, Christine Pimentel (cap5182@cox.net or 401-683-5188)** as soon as you are in conversation with your florist, or at least one month prior to the wedding date about the specifications for flowers and decorations. *For active members of the parish only*, and upon request, a member of the Altar Society can purchase and arrange the flowers. The fee for this service depends on flower selection, and begins at \$100. The flowers at the Altar may be left for the Sunday Services in thanksgiving for the marriage, and this information will be printed in the church bulletin.

### ***Church Availability***

The church will be reserved for your wedding for an hour before and 90 minutes after the starting time of the service. If you need more time for decorating beforehand or for photographs afterward, or if you have other logistical questions, please contact **Barbara Roos**. The availability of additional time depends on what other events are scheduled on your wedding day.

### ***Photography and Videography***

As eager as you may be to preserve images of your wedding, it is even more important that nothing interferes with the sanctity of the moment. While flash photography is not permitted during the service, photography and videography using available light are allowed as long as they remain unobtrusive. If you are planning to have a printed program, you may want to include a note for your guests about permissible photography and a reminder to turn off cell phones before the ceremony. Guidelines for photography will be provided, and your photographer must consult with the **Barbara Roos** no later than one week before the service.

### ***Marriage License***

Despite the First Amendment separation of church and state, under Rhode Island state law, clergy are authorized to act on behalf of the state in officiating at marriages. Therefore the signature of a priest on a marriage license carries the full authority of both church and state. Be sure to give your license to the officiating priest no later than the time of your rehearsal. Following the ceremony the priest will send the signed license to the appropriate official, from whom you may obtain an official copy.

*For a detailed explanation of how and where to obtain your marriage license, please visit:  
[www.health.ri.gov/records/about/marriagelicense/index.php](http://www.health.ri.gov/records/about/marriagelicense/index.php)*

### ***Remarrying after Divorce***

Divorced persons are permitted to marry at Trinity, with the consent of the Bishop of Rhode Island. A copy of the divorce decree(s) must be presented to the officiating clergy to confirm the resolution of the previous marriage and to determine the date the resolution was final. The officiating clergy will take care of obtaining the Bishop's consent and will provide the pastoral care upon which it is based. This process takes a minimum of 30 days.

### ***The Rehearsal***

Wedding rehearsals are normally scheduled for the day before the wedding and take about an hour. It is extremely important that the principles in the service—those in the wedding party, readers, and any other participants—be at Trinity on time for the rehearsal. **If the rehearsal is delayed for more than 15 minutes, the rehearsal is cancelled. The wedding will go ahead as scheduled the next day, but you will not have an opportunity to rehearse any part of the ceremony.** As traffic can be heavy in Newport, especially on Friday afternoons in the summer, we urge you and your participants to allow plenty of time to travel to the church.

### ***Summary of Fees***

A detailed explanation of fees applicable to your wedding will be provided. Your membership status in regards to fees will be determined in consultation with the Rector during your initial conversations. In general, the following descriptions apply:

**Communicant:** A communicant in good standing is defined in Canon 1.2 as a baptized person who has received Holy Communion in Trinity Church at least three times during the preceding year, and who for the previous year has been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and has been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread for the Kingdom of God

**Non-Member:** A Non-Member is anyone not affiliated with Trinity Church on a regular and ongoing basis and includes anyone who is a member of another Episcopal parish. Children and grandchildren of Communicants who are not themselves active members of Trinity Church are similarly included here.

The following is a summary of typical expenses incurred by Communicants and Non-Members who hold weddings at Trinity Church:

<b>Facility / Personnel</b>	<b>Communicants</b>	<b>Non-Members</b>
Sanctuary	\$0	\$2500
Clergy	\$300*	\$300**
Organist	\$300	\$300
Sexton	\$300	\$300
Candles (Chandeliers)	\$100	\$100
Police Detail ( <i>if &gt;100 guests</i> )	\$200	\$200
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1200</b>	<b>\$3700</b>

*\*Suggested donation*

*\*\*Estimated Fee*

### ***Other Important Details***

- Wedding ceremonies take place in the sanctuary of Trinity Church. In addition, upon request and in consultation with the Parish Administrator, the bridal party may prepare in Honyman Hall prior to the wedding. Photographs may be taken inside Honyman Hall or outside in the gardens after the service.
- The Bride and Groom are responsible for their wedding party and their guests' behavior and observance of the church's customs and rules during all events surrounding their wedding on Trinity Church grounds. Alcohol is not welcome or allowed at rehearsals or wedding.
- No food or beverages are permitted in Trinity Church, and smoking is unacceptable in any church building.
- The use of rice, confetti, rose petals, and balloons are not allowed in Trinity Church or on the church grounds.

### **Contacts** **Trinity Church** **401-846-0660**

#### **RECTOR**

*The Rev. Anne Marie Richards, Rector*  
rector@trinitynewport.org

#### **MUSIC**

*Brent Elwood Erstad, Organist & Choirmaster*  
musicdirector@trinitynewport.org

#### **LOGISTICS**

*Barbara Roos, Parish Administrator*  
adminassistant@trinitynewport.org

#### **FLOWERS**

*Christine Pimentel*  
cap5182@cox.net