



Rev. Dr. Steven Bechtold  
**SPARTA**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Welcome ....*

The Sparta United Methodist Church and Rev. Dr. Steven Bechtold are pleased that you desire to be married here and to have him officiate. It indicates that you recognize that marriage is more than a civil contract. By vowing faithfulness to one another before God and by seeking God's blessing upon your union, you affirm that marriage is a sacred and lifetime commitment.

These pages have been prepared to assist you in planning your wedding and to ensure that it will have the dignity, beauty, and meaning you and we desire.

*The Date ...*

The date of rehearsal and the wedding should be set in consultation with the Pastor. Please consult with the church office to secure an available date on the pastor and church's calendar at least six months prior to your wedding. For your own protection do not have invitations printed or a reception site reserved until the date and hour of the wedding has been approved by the Pastor and placed on the church calendar.

*Consultations ...*

A Pastor is more than just a person authorized to perform your marriage. He is a professional, trained to assist persons to prepare for and adjust to the many changes that will occur in a lifetime, including marriage; he will offer his assistance as you prepare for marriage (through one or more wedding consultations). He will also stand ready to assist you should questions or problems arise after you marriage. The Pastor will arrange for an initial meeting with you. When you get together, a schedule of pre-marital counseling sessions will be arranged. A deposit will be required at this time.

## *The Rehearsal and Ceremony...*

The officiating Pastor is in charge of the rehearsal and the ceremony and will conduct it in accordance with tradition and good taste. Suggestions for the ceremony to personalize the wedding and add to its meaning are welcome, but should be made no later than the final consultation before the rehearsal. The pastor must have the license (left blank as received from the Registrar) on or before the time of the rehearsal. The rehearsal normally takes approximately a half an hour. Usually is it held the night before.

### **Wedding Inquiry Guidelines**

\ Enclosed is a Wedding Information Sheet. Please return this with deposit (balance due at rehearsal) at your earliest convenience.

Sparta United Methodist Church  
71 Sparta Avenue  
Sparta, NJ 07871

Honoraria for services provided for members of the church and non-members are as follows:

	Church Members	Non Members	
Organist	\$250	\$250	Sparta UMC organist has right of first refusal.
Soloist	\$75	\$75	
Use of the church:	0	\$500	Includes cleaning before and after ceremony.
Minister - Sanctuary Service	0	\$300	
Minister - Banquet Service	\$200	\$500	
Bulletins	0	\$75	

*Honoraria and donations may be given in cash or check preferably in separate envelopes for the church and the individuals proving the services.*

### **Where to apply for a Marriage license:**

If the bride is a **resident** of New Jersey, the marriage license must be obtained from the Registrar of Vital Statistics in the municipality where she lives. If she is a non-resident of New Jersey, the license must be obtained from the municipality where the groom resides. A license issued under either of these circumstances is good for use anywhere in New Jersey.

If both bride and groom are **non-residents** of New Jersey, the license must be obtained from the Registrar of the municipality where the marriage is to be performed and is only good for use in that municipality. A license issued in New Jersey may never be used outside the state and a license issued in another state may never be used in New Jersey.

When to apply for the license: A local Registrar will not issue a marriage license sooner than 72 hours after the application for a marriage license has been made. If the marriage is scheduled for a Saturday or Sunday, the application should be made no later than the preceding Tuesday. If the application is made on a Wednesday or Thursday, the 72 hours will end on Saturday or Sunday, however, the Registrar will probably not be available on those days or any public holiday.

If both the bride and groom are unavailable to complete the application at the same time, either applicant may complete his/her part of the application and start the waiting period. The other applicant must return with the same witness to complete his/her part of the application. The application must be completed by both parties before the license will be issued. Once the marriage license is issued, it is good for 30 days from the date of issuance. What you should bring with you when you apply 1. Finalized divorce papers, if applicable. 2. A witness who can affirm your identity.

*Please consult the appropriate Registrar of Vital Statistics in your municipality.*

If you have any questions, please email at any time. Everything will be done to make this special time in your life as meaningful and memorable as possible. GOD BLESS YOU.



SPARTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Wedding Information Sheet

Requested Wedding Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Requested Rehearsal Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

GROOM:

BRIDE:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail

address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Reception \_\_\_\_\_

*Fill in as much information as you can:*

Best Man: \_\_\_\_\_

Maid of Honor: \_\_\_\_\_

Ushers: \_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaids: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ring Bearer: \_\_\_\_\_

Flower Girl: \_\_\_\_\_

Will the Bride be escorted down the aisle? \_\_\_\_\_

By Whom: \_\_\_\_\_

One or two wedding rings? \_\_\_\_\_

Unity Candle: \_\_\_\_\_

Names to be used in ceremony: Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride: \_\_\_\_\_

Photographer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address after the Wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_