

**WEDDINGS
AT
THE LARCHMONT AVENUE CHURCH
(PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA)**

LARCHMONT, NEW YORK



Dear Friends,

Larchmont Avenue Church is a beautiful, sacred place to celebrate the union of two people in the sacrament of marriage. The pastors and the staff consider it a privilege to assist you in having your wedding service here.

LAC welcomes all couples with a sincere desire to be married in a Christian service, without discrimination based on sexual orientation or ethnicity. Marriage is a lifelong promise that two people make to one another -- a relationship of love, commitment, compassion, and patience in which the living God has an active role. As scripture says, "*a threefold cord is not quickly broken*" (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

May God bless you in your discernment. We hope that we will be able to celebrate with you!

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Peter Bynum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rev. Dr. Peter A. Bynum
Senior Minister

Weddings at Larchmont Avenue Church

As you consider whether Larchmont Avenue Church will be the place where you choose to take your vows, we offer the enclosed guidelines:

Planning your wedding: The following items will be helpful and should be reviewed with a pastor as you plan your wedding at the Larchmont Avenue Church.

Minister: All weddings are ordinarily performed by a pastor on staff, and it is customary for them to plan and be responsible for all services in the Church. However, recognizing that the family may wish to include other clergy, this request may be made to the pastor. If the couple are members of another faith community and would like their clergyperson to perform their wedding, they must make this request in writing to the Session. The clergyperson must provide the following information: seminary from which they graduated, date of ordination, name of the church which ordained them, and a plan for premarital counseling.

Church Standards for Marriage: Weddings are scheduled once the basic information about a couple and the service have been discussed with the minister. All marriage services must comply with civil law and with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Recognizing that sometimes weddings can be occasions for two faiths to be represented or that relatives or family friends may be clergy, we are open to considering clergy who hold valid ordination (as described above) in other churches or faiths to assist in your wedding service. Departures from the traditional Presbyterian marriage service must be approved by the officiating pastor, **prior** to the time of the rehearsal. If either partner has been divorced, a copy of the final divorce decree may be required.

Date and Time: You should contact the church office to determine the availability of the church facilities as far in advance as possible. Weddings are typically scheduled on Saturday before 7 pm or on Sunday afternoon after 2pm. Weddings are not held on legal or religious holidays.

Place: The sanctuary offers seating for up to 475. Please contact the church office for the most recent COVID-safety procedures. A dressing room and accessible all-gender bathrooms are available. Non-church locations can be discussed with the minister, and the same church regulations apply wherever the ceremony is held.

Music: The wedding ceremony is a service of worship and the music must be in keeping with the purpose of a Christian wedding service. (Secular or popular songs of special meaning to you should be reserved for the wedding reception.) Music for the service is under the direction and supervision of the Director of Music Ministry/Organist who is expected to play all weddings. After your initial meeting with the officiating pastor, and your date is confirmed, you should make an appointment with the Director of Music/Organist to discuss the music for the service. Suggestions for vocal and instrumental soloists are available through the Director of Music.

Rehearsal: A 45-50 minute rehearsal can be scheduled the day preceding the wedding, generally at 6 pm. The officiating minister will be present, and the organist and custodian, if desired.

Receptions: Receptions may be arranged at the church in consultation with the officiating minister.

Wedding License: The license should be secured by the couple from a town or city clerk in New York state and is good for 60 days. It must be left in the church office several days prior to the wedding.

PHOTOGRAPHY AT CHURCH WEDDINGS

It is important that the subject of photography at a wedding be discussed with the officiating minister along with specific time limits. Care must be taken to preserve the spirit and mood of the service of worship. Professional photographers may take photographs with the following restrictions:

- No flash bulb pictures may be taken during the service of worship. (Time exposures from the rear of the sanctuary are permitted).
- The photographer, standing in the back of the Sanctuary (behind the last pew of guests) may take pictures of the couple, wedding party, and family as they start up the center aisle of the church; as

well as a picture of the couple as they recess from the church following the service of worship.

- No other photographs are to be taken during the service.
- Ushers are requested to instruct all guests that NO pictures, including with cell phones, are to be taken in the sanctuary.

Pictures may be taken of the wedding party, after the marriage ceremony is completed and all guests have left. The couple is encouraged to make a listing of pictures desired beginning with the largest group picture and concluding with a picture of the bride. Pictures may be taken prior to the ceremony in rooms where the couple and wedding party are gathering.

Video Recording: The church maintains and provides professional videography via our installed video cameras based on the availability of our livestream operator. Couples are urged to consider this option for guests who are unable to attend. Otherwise, video cameras are permitted but are to be stationary in one place, behind one of the pillars, hidden as much as possible from the congregation. There are to be no special lights, and the person responsible for the video camera is not to move from the assigned place.

SEND OFF CELEBRATIONS

Giving the couple a warm send off is encouraged with these considerations in mind. We do not allow silly string, confetti, rice, bird seed, glitter, artificial snow, foam peanuts or similar items. Such items can pose safety risk to both the couple and guests.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A deposit of \$500 is required within 14 days after arranging a wedding date. It is applied to the final costs of building charges and is payable by check or through our website, lacny.org/giving with the “Wedding Deposit” noted.

The secretary of the church will send the couple an itemized bill, based on the fee schedules below. You may pay via a check to the Larchmont Avenue Church, or through our website.

NON -MEMBER SANCTUARY FEE OF \$3500 includes honoraria to the officiating pastor, the organist, the sexton and the use of the building.

MEMBER SANCTUARY FEE OF \$1500 includes honoraria to the officiating, pastor, the organist the sexton, and the use of the building.

ADDITIONAL FEES are charged for **LIVESTREAMING**--\$75/hour; Soloists/Instrumentalist- \$200; Organist attendance if required at the rehearsal—\$100.

Please do not hesitate to direct any questions or requests for further information to the church office @ 914-834-1800, ext. 302.