LITTLE BROWN
WEDDINGS
IN THE VALE

GETTING READY

FOR YOUR
WEDDING OR VOW RENEWAL

THANK YOU!

Thank you for choosing to get married or renew your vows at The Little Brown Church in the Vale. We're delighted that you have chosen to "***let our history become part of yours!!***" Our goal is to make your special day – even more special! You will be joining the over 76,000 couples who have been married at this famous old church over the past 160 years! Our desire is to give you as much information as you need in order to plan your wedding or vow renewal at our church. Please do not hesitate to email us at info@littlebrownweddings.org or call (641) 435 2027 if you have any questions.

WEDDINGS AND VOW RENEWALS AT THE LITTLE BROWN CHURCH

A Christian Wedding.

The Little Brown Church in the Vale is an active Christian Congregational Church. As such, your wedding or vow renewal will be performed by our pastor, and will be set within the context of the Christian Faith. Your vows will be made before God, and those present at your wedding ceremony. During the ceremony our pastor will share a brief instruction and encouragement from the Bible, and prayer will be offered for you (including the Lord's Prayer) for your special day, and for your future life together. The service is generally traditional in content, however our pastor personalizes each wedding, creating an intimate and meaningful experience for each couple. A downloadable PDF giving an example of a typical wedding ceremony can be found on the "GETTING MARRIED AT LBC" page on this website.

ABOUT THE CHURCH

The Little Brown Church in the Vale is set among 10 acres of beautiful gardens and grounds just outside of the City of Nashua, in Northeast Iowa. Great care has been taken over the years to maintain the originality of the building and grounds. A wedding or vow renewal at The Little Brown Church in the Vale is a journey back in time!

Church Grounds & Parking:

- There is ample parking for cars, trucks, and buses. Parking spaces are located both at the north side of the church and directly across from the church.
- Bridal limousines may pull up directly in front of the church.
- Consumption of alcohol is not allowed on the church grounds.
- Smoking is permitted on the church grounds – not in the church. We encourage those who smoke to do so at a distance from the front door of the church.
- We do not allow rice, bird seed, or confetti to be thrown as the bride and groom exit the church – bubbles are fine!
- Please make sure that any trash is disposed of before leaving the property.

Inside the church:

- The maximum capacity of the church is 100 people.
- Due to limitations of space at the front of the church we are only able to have six (6) members in the wedding party standing with the pastor. This would normally be the bride & groom plus two bridesmaids and two groomsmen. Other members of the wedding party can walk the aisle ahead of the bride but would need to be seated in the front side pews as soon as they reach the front of the church – and before the bride walks down the aisle.
- Because of space limitations, the front pews are left unused. Immediate family members (moms and dads etc.) can be seated from the second center pew.
- As the church does not have a center aisle, wedding parties walk down the aisle on the right hand side of the sanctuary. The aisles and the area at the front of the church are relatively narrow. We recommend that brides wearing a wedding dress with a wide or long train (and especially those who are being escorted down the aisle) should pay special attention to this.
- The church is decorated for weddings, in advance, for you. Because of the number of weddings we perform on a single day we do not allow wedding parties to bring their own decorations - other than boutonnieres and bouquets for the wedding party.
- If you intend to have flower girls as part of your wedding party, please make sure that all petals are gathered before you leave the sanctuary.
- Men are required to remove hats, caps, etc. as they enter the church building.
- Please do not bring food or drinks into the church.
- Because of the age of the church and its contents we request that wedding parties and guests do not touch or move any of the furniture or objects.
- The pastor at The Little Brown Church performs all weddings and vow renewals at the church.
- In order to reduce the risk of fire we do not allow open flames anywhere in the church building.
- Bathrooms are located in the basement of the church. There is a ramp leading from the front door of the church to the bathrooms.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Little Brown Church in the Vale is one of the most photographed churches in Iowa, if not the entire United States! Whether Spring, Summer, Fall… or even Winter… the church, gardens and grounds of The Little Brown Church are the perfect place for your wedding photography.

Inside the church

- All photography inside the church must take place within the 30 minute time frame directly after the ceremony.
- Flash photography is allowed in the church.
- Prior to the ceremony, the photographer is required to check with the church staff regarding the rules for photography at the Little Brown Church.
- Wedding guests taking pictures / videos during the ceremony must remain in the seats.
- There is no restriction regarding where your photographer can be located in the sanctuary to take your photographs. Standing on the pews, however, is not allowed.

On the grounds

- You can take pictures on the church grounds (does not include inside the church) both before AND after your ceremony.

PLEASE NOTE: It is the responsibility of the bride or groom to inform their photographer of these guidelines

GETTING READY FOR YOUR WEDDING

We want you to be as prepared as possible for your big day. Here are a few things to remember:

- **Marriage License:** You will need to provide a valid marriage license when you check in at our church the day of your wedding. You can obtain an Iowa Marriage License from any county in the state of Iowa. PLEASE NOTE: There is a 3-day waiting period before a license can either be mailed to you or be picked up at the courthouse. The Iowa Marriage License does not expire unless it is not retrieved from the county registrar within six months of application. There is a link on "GETTING MARRIED AT LBC" page on this website that will take you to the registrar at Chickasaw County where you can apply for a marriage license.
- **Complete The "Additional Information" Form:** Remember to complete the "Additional Information" form located on the "THE NEXT STEP" page of our website. We recommend you complete the form as soon as possible after your wedding/vow renewal has been confirmed. The form should be submitted **no later than 14 days** before your ceremony.
- **Pay Your Balance:** Remember that the outstanding balance for your wedding or vow renewal must be paid at least **14** days prior to your ceremony. You can do this on the "MAKE A PAYMENT" page on our website

ON YOUR BIG DAY

Before you leave for the church:

- If you are getting married - make sure you bring all relevant documents that were provided to you by the courthouse (especially your marriage license).
- If you are exchanging rings – make sure someone is delegated to keep charge of the rings (normally the best man's job). Have an "eyes on" policy – that is, the bride or groom should see the rings in someone's possession before you leave for the church.
- If you have selected to have a special ceremony (Unity Cross, Unity Heart or Sand Ceremony) don't forget to bring the materials with you.

When you arrive at the church

- Please arrive 30 minutes before your ceremony along with your two witnesses (witnesses are not required for a Vow Renewal ceremony). Witnesses must be at least 18 years of age.
- Go immediately to the church or dressing area (depending on your email directions) to briefly meet with our wedding facilitator to complete your paperwork. You will have approximately 15 to 20 minutes to dress.
- The dressing area is located in the downstairs of the church.
- If you are using the dressing area, you will be required to take all your belongings with you before you leave for the ceremony.
- If you have selected a special ceremony such as Unity Cross, Unity Heart or Sand, you will need to make sure that they are set up prior to the ceremony itself. Our wedding facilitator will assist you with this.

If you have any questions about your wedding or vow renewal ceremony at The Little Brown Church please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Email: info@littlebrownweddings.org
Call (641) 435 2027