



WEDDING POLICY

THE VALUE OF MARRIAGE

At Community Church we believe that marriage is a gift of God and a relationship which He designed between a man and a woman. Because God is the creator of marriage, the wedding ceremony should reflect God's sovereign involvement in establishing a marriage relationship.

Community Church has made certain decisions about the use of our facility and grounds for weddings. Community Church will only perform weddings and allow the use of our building for wedding ceremonies that accord with our *Position Paper on Marriage and Same-Sex Couples in American Society*. This policy is intended to provide the man and the woman (hereafter, referred to as "the couple") with the best possible preparation, based on the Bible, not just for their wedding day, but for their marriage.

POLICY

Eligibility

We are committed to serving those who are members or regular attenders of Community Church and have been for at least six months. A couple who are not members or regular attenders need approval from a Community Church pastor.

Personal relationship with God

We believe it is important that the bride and the groom have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. A Christian is one who has come to know Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior. The couple should be committed to living in accordance with scriptural principles (i.e., maintaining sexual purity (1 Thess. 4:3-8); living in separate residences (Heb. 13:4); seeking a partner with the same spiritual commitment, (2 Cor. 6).

Divorce

If either the man or woman has been divorced, one of the pastoral staff will meet with divorcees to evaluate factors that contributed to a dissolution of a previous marriage and how these factors relate to scriptural guidelines. A minimum of 18 months of legal divorce must pass before the couple considers remarriage and it is advised that the marriage ceremony occur at least 24 months beyond the legal divorce date.

We believe a new relationship should not be pursued until the potential for a healthy reconciliation has been exhausted. Divorce is a process and so is recovery. A time of grieving and healing is necessary before considering remarriage. Finishing and resolving the issues will set the stage for a healthy new relationship.

Premarital Counseling

The couple is required to go through a premarital counseling with one of the Pastor/Director staff of Community Church. The cost for the premarital assessment is \$35.00. If issues in the premarital process are sufficiently concerning, we reserve the right to postpone or decline officiating the wedding ceremony and not allow use of Community Church property for the wedding ceremony.

Fees

The standard fee for a wedding at Community Church is \$750.00 (see breakdown below), but any adjustments or additions to this fee will be discussed with the Wedding Liaison during the initial meeting. A \$100.00 deposit should be paid to the church to secure the reservation of the church building. This deposit becomes non-refundable one month before the wedding date. The final payment should be mailed to Community Church at least one month prior to the wedding date.

Service

Fees

Building Rental \$300.00 for nonmembers; \$150 for members

Wedding Planner \$150.00

(\$15 per hour per person will be charged for the wedding planner with a 10 hour minimum per wedding. Additional charges will be applied in half-hour increments beyond the 10 hour minimum at \$15 per hour).

Pastor \$150.00 (paid directly to the Pastor)

Custodial Services \$75.00

Audio & Lighting Technician \$75.00

(\$25 per hour per person will be charged for each audio, projection, lighting or camera technician with a 3 hour minimum per wedding. Additional charges will be applied in half-hour increments for each AV technician needed beyond the 3-hour minimum at \$25 per hour).

PROCEDURES

Reservations

We ask that plans for reserving the church and beginning the marriage preparation process begin at least six months prior to the wedding date. This will allow sufficient time to complete the marriage preparation process. Reservations of the church building will be made through the church office.

Wedding Liaison

Any wedding party that uses Community Church for their wedding will need to work with our Wedding Liaison. After the reservations for the wedding are made, the Wedding Liaison will contact the couple and arrange to meet to plan the details of the wedding ceremony.

Ceremony

Typically one of the pastors of Community Church will officiate at the wedding. As part of the premarital counseling process, the Pastor will assist the couple in putting together your order of service for the wedding ceremony. If there is a request for other clergy to officiate the wedding, that must be approved by a Community Church pastor. A rehearsal will usually take place the evening before the wedding.

Facility Use

The wedding party is totally responsible for the condition of the church building. The church building and all rooms used by the wedding party must be left in a neat and clean condition and all decorations must be removed. Signing of the "Wedding Cost Agreement" form will constitute agreement to reimburse the church for any damages and/or necessary cleaning. Community Church is a place of worship and a proper standard of conduct applies to everyone utilizing this facility. Children in attendance must be under direct adult supervision at all times. Children are not permitted to roam freely throughout the church building.

Limitations

Smoking is not allowed inside any part of the church building. Alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are not permitted in the church building or on the grounds of the church. No food or drinks are allowed inside the auditorium. Community Church is not currently hosting rehearsal dinners or wedding receptions in the church building. We do not provide any downloaded music (including, but not limited to: CDs, MP3 files, etc). Community Church does not provide any live musicians, photographers, videographers or programs for the wedding ceremony.

Timing Guidelines

You may arrive and set up in the church building up to 2 hours before the wedding rehearsal and stay up to 1 hour after the wedding rehearsal. You may arrive and get ready in the church building up to 3 hours before the wedding ceremony and all decorations or items brought into the church must be gone no later than 3 hours after the wedding ceremony. We do not allow wedding ceremonies to start after 3pm on Saturdays.

Decorations

Decorations are defined as "any materials placed on walls, windows, floors and ceilings that were not included in the original building design." Decorations include, but are not limited to: flowers, pictures, and window coverings, cardboard cutouts, hanging banners or any signs. Use only masking tape, Scotch tape or poster putty to secure decorations. Duct tape is not allowed. The use of tacks, nails or screws is strictly prohibited. For safety reasons, only drip-less candles and candles in glass containers may be used within the church building.

Wedding parties desiring to decorate the auditorium for the wedding ceremony must remove all decorations within 3 hours following the event.

Audio and Lighting

The church will provide the couple with a trained sound and lighting technician who will coordinate all the audio/visual needs for your wedding ceremony. This person will also arrange the use of microphones and other sound equipment to assist the musicians.

Music

The Pastor will give suggestions as to the placement of music for the wedding ceremony. He will also need to approve all music selections for your wedding ceremony.

-Effective January, 2007

-Revised January 2008, Sept 2010, February 2015, November 2019