



BETHANY CHURCH
WEDDING POLICY

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BETHANY CHURCH

Wedding Policy

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage is a covenant through which one man and one woman are called to live together before God their lives of discipleship. Marriage is God's gift and has been blessed by Jesus Christ. He has instructed those who enter into this relationship to cherish a mutual esteem and love; to bear with each other's infirmities and weaknesses; to comfort each other in sickness, trouble and sorrow; to provide for each other the necessities of life; to pray for each other in things which pertain to God; and to live together as heirs of the grace of life. In marriage a man and woman join themselves in love and become one, even as Christ is one with the Church, his body.

Bethany Church has adopted this wedding policy in order to:

- Enable couples to understand the nature of their Christian commitment
- Ensure the facilities of the church are used in keeping with our faith and purpose
- Answer any questions and remove any misunderstandings regarding weddings at Bethany
- Bear a faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ

WHO MAY BE MARRIED AT BETHANY

Because marriage is an act of Christian discipleship, both the man and the woman seeking marriage should be professing Christians. At a minimum, either the man or the woman must be a professing Christian.

THE PROCESS

The following steps need to be taken leading up to the wedding day:

1. Couples seeking a wedding ceremony should contact the church as soon as possible and no later than 4 months prior to the proposed wedding day.
2. The church will mail an application along with guidelines for a wedding at Bethany. This information may also be downloaded at www.bethpc.org
3. The signed application (by both bride and groom) needs to be returned along with a \$150 non-refundable deposit to secure the date.
4. The church will contact the couple to arrange for three required pre-wedding visits with the pastor.
5. The church or pastor will provide options for required premarital counseling (in addition to the 3 visits with the pastor)
6. After all requirements have been met and the balance of payment received the couple can look forward to their wedding day!

MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP

Ordinarily the pastor of Bethany Church will have the privilege of conducting weddings in its sanctuary. The invitation for a different minister to take part in the service must come from the pastor of Bethany. Couples may not invite other clergy to take part in the service before consulting Bethany's pastor.

MUSIC

Music should direct attention to God, who sanctifies marriage and special care should be taken to assure that the selections chosen are suitable and respectful of the beliefs of Bethany Church. Music inappropriate for worship will not be approved. All music must be approved by the pastor or the Worship Director at Bethany Church.

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MUSIC INSTRUMENTS

Musical instruments brought in by other performers is permitted. Musical instruments owned by Bethany must be played and operated by Bethany staff or designated church members. Permission to use the church's instruments may be given but permission must first be granted by the church.

DECORATIONS AND SYMBOLS

Decoration of the sanctuary will be at the expense of the wedding party. In keeping with our beliefs, decorations and symbols must recognize God and should not be elaborate.

Tacks and nails may not be driven into church property. Tape may not be used due to the risk of damage to painted surfaces.

Only dripleless candles may be used.

Flowers must be removed the same day of the service.

No rice or bird seed may be thrown on the church property.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO RECORDING

Photographs are encouraged before and after the wedding ceremony as such activity during the worship removes attention from God at work.

Neither Photographers or videographers may enter the main floor of the sanctuary during the service and are respectfully asked to keep to the outside aisles and the back of the sanctuary.

The wedding coordinator will work with photographers and videographers to ensure the pictures and videos may be taken with respect to our beliefs and worship.

It is the responsibility of the bridal couple to make this policy known to their friends and photographers.

ALCOHOL

Alcoholic drinks are not permitted on church property.

WEDDING PROGRAMS

If wedding programs are requested, a worksheet must be provided 60 days prior to the wedding and proofread by the bridal party 30 days prior to the wedding.

WEDDING RECEPTIONS / REHEARAL DINNERS

Receptions and dinners are not included in the cost of a wedding ceremony. Please contact the church for information on having a rehearsal dinner or wedding reception at Bethany Church.

THE WEDDING REHEARSAL

Wedding rehearsals are traditionally held the evening before the ceremony. The church will provide a wedding coordinator that will open and close the church for the rehearsal. The coordinator will work under the supervision of the pastor to ensure the wedding is run smoothly and to answer any questions.

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FEES AND PAYMENT POLICY

Fees:

A wedding at Bethany Church includes:

- Use of the building
- One musician
- Optional Candles and Flowers
- Sound technician
- Custodial services
- Honorarium for Pastor

Total Required: \$750

This fee does not include receptions.

Please make check payable to "Bethany Presbyterian Church." Funds will be distributed as necessary.

Payment Policy:

Full payment is due 60 days prior to the wedding rehearsal.

Fees paid within 30 days of the wedding date are subject to a \$100 late fee.

If the church does not receive payment by 30 days prior to the wedding day, we will assume the wedding is no longer scheduled and the bridal party will be informed the date has been released. The non-refundable \$150 will be kept to further the ministries of Bethany.