

Weddings At Living Faith

We are grateful for the opportunity to walk with couples as they prepare for marriage. The following outlines our process and expectations as we seek to support and shepherd you in this important season.

Who We Marry

We believe that marriage is a gift from God given to all people, not only to Christians. At the same time, the weddings we officiate are distinctly Christian ceremonies. In these ceremonies, a couple is making covenantal promises not only to one another, but before God. Because of this, we ask that both individuals understand and be willing to enter into these Biblical commitments in a sincere and meaningful way.

Our desire is to marry those who are meaningfully connected to our church community. While we do not have a formal membership process, this includes individuals who are regularly attending, involved in the life of the church, or who are known within our broader church family (including those who are connected and participate from a distance). As a general practice, we do not officiate weddings for individuals with whom we do not have an existing relationship or connection.

In situations involving a previous marriage, we approach each request with care and intentional pastoral discernment. We recognize that circumstances surrounding divorce can be complex and deeply personal. As part of the marriage process, we will take time to understand each individual's story, including the reasons for any prior divorce, in order to thoughtfully and faithfully determine how to proceed. We also encourage couples to prayerfully consider their own readiness and understanding of remarriage in light of Scripture before entering this process.

Our Theology of Marriage

We believe that marriage is a covenant established by God, not merely a human contract. It is a sacred commitment entered into before God, in which a man and a woman pledge lifelong faithfulness to one another.

From the beginning, Scripture presents marriage as God's design for companionship, partnership, and shared life. In marriage, a husband and wife are called to walk together in deep friendship, supporting and serving one another through every season of life. At its fullest, marriage is also a reflection of the relationship between Christ and his Church, pointing beyond itself to the love, grace, and faithfulness of God.

Because of this, we approach marriage not only as a significant life decision, but as a significant spiritual decision. It is a covenant meant to endure, to grow, and to shape both individuals more into the likeness of Christ.

Premarital Process

We require all couples to participate in premarital counseling as part of the preparation for marriage. This process is led by one of our pastors and is designed to help couples build a strong, Christ-centered foundation for their life together.

Premarital counseling typically includes 5–6 sessions, scheduled over a period of time that allows for thoughtful conversation, reflection, and growth. Rather than rushing through the process, our desire is that couples would engage it meaningfully, with the understanding that they are preparing for a marriage, not simply a wedding.

While each couple's journey is unique, these sessions will explore key areas of married life from a biblical perspective, including topics such as the nature of marriage, personal and family background, communication, roles and expectations, and physical intimacy.

In addition to premarital counseling sessions, couples are expected to regularly attend and participate in Sunday services and the life of our church throughout the counseling process, not only on the weeks they have scheduled sessions.

Pastoral Discretion

As pastors, we approach each wedding with a sense of spiritual responsibility and care. Our desire is not simply to officiate a ceremony, but to faithfully shepherd couples as they enter into the covenant of marriage.

Because of this, there may be situations where we are not able to move forward with officiating a wedding. This may be due to pastoral, relational, or theological concerns, or a lack of alignment with the expectations and process outlined above.

In such cases, we are committed to communicating openly, honestly, and with care, with the goal of honoring both the couple and the biblical vision of marriage.

Wedding Ceremony Planning

The format and logistics of the wedding ceremony will be discussed and shaped during the premarital counseling process, with thoughtful consideration given to the couple's vision and the Christ-centered nature of the ceremony.

Process Overview

1. Initial Contact

Couples should begin by reaching out directly to one of our pastors to express their interest in being married through our church.

2. Initial Meeting

An initial meeting will be scheduled to get to know the couple, hear their story, and discuss the vision and expectations for marriage and the process ahead.

3. Scheduling the Wedding Date

Couples often come with a desired wedding date in mind. However, because of the pastoral role in officiating and preparing for the wedding, the date should be confirmed in coordination with the officiating pastor's availability and involvement in the process.

4. Premarital Counseling

Couples will participate in 5–6 premarital counseling sessions, scheduled in a way that allows for meaningful conversation, reflection, and preparation. We will work together to establish a schedule that is both consistent and manageable.

5. **Ceremony Planning**

Details of the wedding ceremony will be discussed and developed throughout the premarital counseling process, with the goal of shaping a Christ-centered ceremony that reflects the couple's vision.

6. **Rehearsal**

A wedding rehearsal is required prior to the ceremony. All individuals participating in the ceremony are expected to be present in order to ensure clarity, unity, and peace for the day of the wedding.

Fees and Practical Considerations

For those who are part of our church community, officiating a wedding is considered a gift from our pastors to the couple. Premarital counseling is also included as part of this process at no cost. There is no fee for these services, though couples are welcome to give a gift/honorarium if they desire.

If a wedding requires travel or an overnight stay, couples should make a reasonable effort to help cover related expenses. This is a meaningful way to support those serving them in this role.

For couples using our church building, there is no charge for facility use or for the decor items that are already available. In some cases, additional support (such as audio/visual assistance) may be needed. These individuals are often volunteers, and couples are encouraged to be mindful and appreciative of their time and service.

We consider it a privilege to walk with couples as they prepare for marriage and seek to honor God in this commitment. If you have any questions or would like to begin the process, we would be glad to connect with you.