



## **WEDDING POLICY**

Marriage is one of life's basic experiences. The Christian wedding is a historic ceremony of dedication administered by the church congregation. It is "holy matrimony" and is a serious lifetime commitment to our Lord by the two persons getting married and also by the church congregation.

Marriage is holy. It was instituted by God Himself (Genesis 2:18ff). The wedding itself is a service of sacred worship. Only those persons who are committed to Jesus Christ as Lord have the basic and fundamental commitment necessary to sustain Christian marriage (Ephesians 5:21-33, I Corinthians 7<sup>th</sup> Chapter, among other Bible passages). Therefore, this congregation is devoted to Christian marriage and hereby states our primary concern for the wedding of those persons of this congregation.

Marriage, then, by this church shall be a service of divine worship. In the ceremony, we shall celebrate God's guidance through the Holy Spirit, which led to the two parties to declare their intentions to be wedded according to God's ordinances. Marriage celebrates God's establishment of the home as the primary social institution. Therefore, planning and performance of the wedding ceremony are essential if dignity, seriousness, and joy will prevail. Paul admonishes all of us to "Let all thing be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

### **I. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- A. A Wedding is a Worship Service. We shall expect the involvement of all our members, auxiliaries, and departments, activities in the worship experience. For example, combined choirs shall sing; ushers & nurses shall serve; Deacons shall be in positions of honor and shall be special guests; in general, every department and auxiliary shall function in its normal worship role. The service shall be under the direction of the pastor. Notices shall be mailed to all auxiliaries and departments at least one month in advance of the wedding date.

- B. Counseling Must Be Scheduled for Members Who Plan to Be Wedded. The pastor or his designee shall counsel the couple concerning the basic matters relative to commitment in a mature relationship involving the home and family of those committed to Christ Jesus. Three counseling sessions are advised and should be scheduled at least three months prior to the wedding. If possible, more time should be allotted so that other matters may be carefully considered.
- C. Laws regarding marriage and divorce are under the authority of the State of Wisconsin. It is the responsibility of the couple to inform themselves of these laws and to strictly adhere to those marriage laws. However, couples who plan to get married in this congregation should make sure that the wedding license, issued by the State of Wisconsin, is given to the Church Administrator (only) at least two days prior to the wedding ceremony. This license must not be left with anyone else, but must be personally delivered and personally handed to the church secretary. The Church Administrator prior to the ceremony must complete the license.
- D. Only music appropriate for divine worship shall be used in this congregation at the wedding ceremony. All music shall be subject to approval of the pastor. The pastor, when necessary, may consult with the Minister of Music. However, total responsibility for the music selection shall rest with the pastor. Suggestions may be made by the members of this congregation who are the wedding couple.

## **II. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS**

- A. To schedule a wedding ceremony, please either email us at [cbcgm@cbcgm.org](mailto:cbcgm@cbcgm.org) or submit a letter addressed to the Pastor at 2249 N Sherman Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53208, via US mail, and should arrive at least 90 days prior to the wedding date. More time allows better planning and preparation. So, if possible, allow much, much more than 30 days.

The letter will indicate the name of the member requesting the date, address, zip code, and both work

and home telephone numbers. The letter should also specify the requested time, date, and facilities and personnel requested and should include a check or money order for \$200.00. When the letter is received, the pastor shall check that church calendar to make the date is clear. He shall also check with the church engineer and other personnel to ensure that no scheduling conflicts exist. He shall also check to ensure that the person is member of this congregation.

After making these checks, the pastor, then shall inform the requesting member in writing that the request is granted and shall ask that the person come in to the church office and sign the appropriate form for the wedding. This shall be done in 10 days after the request is made (in writing) to the office of the pastor.

B. Wedding coordinators or directors shall not violate church policies and procedure. They shall receive their instructions from the member who is getting married. It is the responsibility of the person getting married to inform the wedding coordinators of the church policies. It causes confusions when the pastor, church engineer, and others give one set of directions and the wedding coordinator give others. Therefore, all contact with the official staff of the church shall be made by the wedding party and complete arrangements shall be made at the time of agreement—when the letter or form of agreement is signed. A general copy of wedding ceremony shall be attached.

C. Wedding Photographers are hereby instructed that there shall be no taking of flash pictures during the wedding service. Video or motion picture cameras may be used; however, movement by photographers or camera persons is strictly forbidden and shall cause the wedding ceremony to be halted by the pastor.

After the service is ended, the pastor, church personnel, and the wedding party shall be available for "staged pictures" or camera sessions to accommodate photographers.

In no case shall camera persons or others enter the pulpit for either video or other camera photography

during the worship service. This service is a worship service and must not be desecrated and turned into a circus. The Wedding Ceremony is a Worship Service. Flash photography and other camera needs shall be met (as much as possible) after the worship in a camera session. It is the responsibility of the member of this congregation who is getting married to inform the photographer (s) and camera persons of this policy.

- D. **We do not endorse wedding ceremonies by persons who are not committed to Jesus Christ as Lord** (see instructions above). However, this building may be used by persons who will agree to all our policies relative to marriage ceremonies providing they deposit \$500 in advance by check or money order at the time their written request is submitted. No exceptions shall be made to this policy. *Nonmembers are not encouraged to be wed at this facility.*