

Guidelines for  
Christ Covenant  
Church  
Pastoral Staff  
Officiating  
Off-Site Weddings



CHRIST COVENANT  
CHURCH

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# Contact Information

## Christ Covenant Church

800 Fullwood Lane  
Matthews, NC 28105  
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## Pastoral Administrator (first point of contact)

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704-708-6104

## Executive Pastor

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# Requirements

## **Wedding Date Requirements:**

The pastoral staff requires a minimum of 6 months' notice to schedule and officiate a wedding.

## **Premarital Counseling Requirements:**

The premarital counseling program covers topics essential for building a strong, biblical foundation for marriage and provides biblical tools couples can apply throughout their marriage. This counseling is a required component for a Christ Covenant Church Pastor to officiate your wedding. All couples are required to attend a minimum of 6 premarital counseling sessions with the officiating Pastor. These counseling sessions should be scheduled over a minimum of 3 months (and preferably longer) to allow adequate time for counseling. Under no circumstances shall counseling sessions be scheduled on a weekly basis; every other week counseling is the minimum required frequency.

Premarital counseling sessions may be conducted by a Pastor (at the bride and/or groom's church) with written communication from their Pastor that these sessions are occurring. All counseling sessions **must** be completed before the wedding, so please allow sufficient time to complete all sessions before the ceremony.

# Procedures

## Step 1

- Contact the Pastoral Administrator and provide the following information:
  1. What church do you currently attend and are you a member?
  2. What is your Pastor's name?
  3. What is your requested wedding date and time of day?
  4. Where will your wedding be located (including facility name and address)?
  5. Which Christ Covenant Church Pastor would you like to officiate your wedding?

## Step 2

- The Pastoral Administrator will:
  1. Send you the Wedding Guidelines for Off-site Weddings. Please become familiar with all guidelines.
  2. Submit your request to the officiating Pastor and will contact you to confirm the Pastor is available to officiate on your wedding day.
  3. Schedule a mandatory interview with the bride, groom, and Pastor.
  4. Coordinate a schedule for premarital counseling or contact the bride and/or groom's Pastor at his or her church to ensure premarital counseling sessions are scheduled.
  5. Collect the "Acknowledgement of Understanding (Form B) and the "Marriage Questionnaire (Form C) located on pages 9-10.

## Step 3

- Prior to the ceremony, the marriage license must be in the Pastor's possession.

# Wedding Ceremony Guidelines

## **VOWS**

Three options for vows may be used during the marriage ceremony. Vows may be selected based upon the preferences of the bride and groom, provided they select one of the three approved vows.

## **MUSIC**

Music is an important part of a wedding ceremony and should be in keeping with the reverence observed in the house of the Lord and appropriate for an occasion of worship. The wedding is a worship service and it is suggested that music should reflect worship of the Lord.

The Music Selection Guide provides more information and will help guide your music selection with suggestions.

## **COMMUNION**

Christ Covenant Church Pastors do not serve communion as part of a wedding ceremony or wedding reception either to the whole congregation or to just the couple. The reason for this is simple: the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper are not to be administered privately. Since weddings are private services, by invitation only, the sacraments cannot be administered.

## **HONORARIUM FOR PASTORS**

The Pastors of Christ Covenant Church view weddings as part of shepherding and do not charge a fee. However, families often wish to provide an honorarium that would bless and honor their Pastor. Please feel free to speak with Pastoral Administrator, who can help guide you toward an appropriate gift.

We ask that you consider and cover any travel and/or hotel expenses that might be incurred by the Pastor officiating your wedding.

## **WEDDING CEREMONY COORDINATOR**

## **WEDDING RECEPTION COORDINATOR**

If you need a Wedding Ceremony Coordinator and/or a Wedding Reception Coordinator, the Pastoral Administrator can refer you to the coordinators that facilitate wedding ceremonies and receptions at Christ Covenant Church.

# SELECTION OF VOWS

Christ Covenant Church provides five options for vows to be used during the marriage ceremony. Vows may be selected based upon the preferences of the bride and groom, provided they select one of the five approved vows.

## Option 1:

I, Name, take you, Name, to be my wife; and I promise before God and these witnesses to be your loving and faithful husband, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

## Option 2:

I, Name, take you, Name, to be my wife, and I promise to love you, and to be faithful to you, as long as we both shall live.

## Option 3:

I, Name, take you, Name, to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish as long as we both shall live. This is my solemn vow.

## Option 4:

I take you, Name, to be my wife from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and I promise to be faithful to you until death parts us.

## Option 5:

I, Name, take you, Name, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance; and thereto, I pledge my faithfulness.

# MUSIC SELECTION GUIDE

Music should be meaningful to the couple, but it should also be in keeping with the reverence observed in the house of the Lord and appropriate for an occasion of worship. There may be secular songs which are important to the wedding party but which do not meet either of the suggested vocal or instrumental criteria below. This music can be incorporated into the rehearsal dinner or wedding reception.

A list of suggested vocal and instrumental works is included in this packet.

- It is suggested that **Vocal music** should have sacred text appropriate to the occasion.
- **Instrumental music** may be either sacred or secular in origins, but it is suggested that it should be appropriate to worship. That is, each instrumental selection should either have an explicitly sacred title or a history of association with traditional worship.

## SUGGESTED MUSIC LIST

This list is intended to be a starting point to help you select music for your wedding. It is only a guide and should not be considered as a complete group from which all music must be selected.

### The Prelude

Air from Suite in D	Bach
Air from Water Music	Handel
Andante from String Quartet	Schubert
Andante from Violin Concerto	Mendelssohn
Arioso	Bach
Canon in D	Pachelbel
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	Bach
Jesus, Lead Thou On	Manz
Larghetto	Handel
Meditation	Bach/Gounod
Nocturne from String Quartet No. 2	Borodin
Prelude on Rhosymedre	Vaughan Williams
Sheep May Safely Graze	Bach
Hymn: Be Thou My Vision	SLANE
Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness	RUNYAN
Hymn: How Great Thou Art	O STORE GUD
Hymn: May the Mind of Christ	ST. LEONARD'S
Hymn: O Perfect Love	PERFECT LOVE
Hymn: Savior, Like a Shepherd	BRADBURY
Hymn: This is My Father's World	TERRA BEATA



### **Processionals**

Largo from Xerxes	Handel
Prelude to a Te Deum	Charpentier
Psalm 19	Marcello
Rigaudon	Campra
Trumpet Voluntary	Clarke
Trumpet Voluntary	Stanley
Wedding March (traditional)	Wagner
Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy	NICAEA
Hymn: Love Divine	BEECHER
Hymn: Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven	LAUDA ANIMA
Hymn: Praise to the Lord	LOBE DEN HERREN

### **Vocal Solos**

Alleluia	Mozart
Be Thou With Them	Bach
Entreat Me Not to Leave Thee	Gounod
Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee	Thiman
My Heart Ever Faithful	Bach
O Lord Most Holy	Franck
O Rest in the Lord	Mendelssohn
The Lord's Prayer	Mallotte
This Ring Upon Your Finger	Schumann
Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness	RUNYAN
Hymn: How Great Thou Art	O STORE GUD
Hymn: O Perfect Love	PERFECT LOVE
Hymn: Savior, Like a Shepherd	BRADBURY

### **Recessionals**

Hornpipe from Water Music	Handel
Now Thank We All Our God	Bach
Pomp and Circumstance March No. 4	Elgar
Praise the Lord with Drums & Cymbals	Karg-Elert
Rondeau	Mouret
Trumpet Tune	Purcell
Wedding March	Mendelssohn

# Acknowledgement of Understanding

## FORM B

### Wedding Guidelines/Procedures Christ Covenant Church Matthews, NC 28105

Pastors at Christ Covenant Church desire that weddings will be conducted to honor God and provide participants with an opportunity to participate in a special service of worship. For that reason, we have developed a list of guidelines to clearly communicate our expectations related to weddings. Please submit Forms B and C to the Pastoral Administrator as soon as possible.

*No wedding date will be scheduled or confirmed until the couple has returned this Acknowledgement (Form B) and the Marriage Questionnaire (Form C).*

I have received and read all the information contained in Christ Covenant Church's wedding guidelines and agree to comply with the requirements.

Bride's initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Groom's initials: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that a minimum of 6 months' advance notice is required to schedule an officiating Pastor at Christ Covenant Church.

Bride's initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Groom's initials: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that I am required to complete a minimum of 6 premarital counseling sessions with the Christ Covenant Church officiating Pastor or by a Pastor at the bride and/or groom's church (with written pastoral communication), and these sessions shall be scheduled over a minimum of 3 months (and preferably longer) to allow adequate time for counseling. Under no circumstances shall counseling sessions be scheduled on a weekly basis; every other week counseling is the minimum required frequency. All counseling sessions **must** be completed before the wedding, so please allow sufficient time to complete all sessions before the ceremony.

Bride's initials: \_\_\_\_\_ Groom's initials: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Bride

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature/Groom

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# Marriage Questionnaire

## FORM C

The pastoral staff of Christ Covenant Church aspire to uphold the sacredness of marriage as outlined in Scripture. We desire for the bride and groom to share our view of the sanctity of marriage. Marriage is a divinely instituted relationship. While marriage is for people of all faiths and beliefs, a Christian marriage is between a man and a woman who have both professed their faith in Jesus Christ. The wedding ceremony for such a man and woman is a worship service to be conducted with reverence and dignity and joy. Scripture requires that those couples who are to be united in marriage be equally yoked. Furthermore, we ask that couples be living apart and not engaged in pre-marital sex.

Therefore, we ask that you complete the following questionnaire so that the information you give may be used to assess your request for marriage. All information will be held in confidence and will not be discussed beyond the confines of the pastoral staff and administrative team.

**Please return Forms B & C to the Pastoral Administrator within two weeks of receiving these guidelines to ensure the process moves quickly and easily.**

CURRENT DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ PROPOSED WEDDING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Bride-to-be**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (where you currently reside)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Best phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Church affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you currently attend church? \_\_\_\_\_

**Groom-to-be**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (where you currently reside)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Best phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Church affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Where do you currently attend church? \_\_\_\_\_

Have either of you been married previously? (Please circle one.)      Yes      No

If so, please elaborate: