



CHRIST'S CHURCH

Wedding Guide

Congratulations on your engagement! We are excited for you both. Marriage is the closest relationship that can exist between two people on Earth. God created man and woman to live with a deep, abiding connection between them. The wedding ceremony is a statement of your devotion, commitment to one another, and your acknowledgment that God needs to reside in the middle of this marriage.

This ceremony represents the end of your courtship and the beginning of your lives together. The beginning of an exclusive relationship that is intended to be forever. The beginning of a lifelong quest to grow together in unity and love.

As your church, we desire to support and encourage you in this relationship. We feel a burden to help your marriage begin on a solid, biblical foundation. While right now your love and passion are pulling you together, there are forces in our world and culture that wish to pull you apart. This guide is designed to help lay a spiritual foundation for one of the biggest decisions you will make in your life and provide the details you need to plan a service that honors God and celebrates your love.

We believe the Bible is the foundation of our faith and our source of truth in this world and packed full of applicable lessons. It is the ultimate guide for living life on this side of Heaven. The Bible clearly gives us God's plan for the "best life" here on Earth. Our goal is to live up to the standard God has outlined for us in the pages of the Bible and not to compromise truth as our culture moves further and further from its teachings.

As a church, we hold to the philosophy of, "Where the Bible speaks, we speak. Where the Bible is silent, we are silent." On the issue of marriage, the Bible is not silent. From the Old Testament book of Genesis to the New Testament teachings of Jesus and the Apostles, the Bible clearly states God's intention for marriage.

God's design and plan is that... "man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh" (NIV Matthew 19:5). The Elders of Christ's Church interpret these teachings literally and hold it as the standard for marriage.

Christ's Church Pastor – Officiating Weddings (Offsite)

- Both the bride and groom must believe in one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Both the bride and groom must be in good standing with Christ's Church (willing to submit to the authority of Christ's Church).
- The bride and groom must schedule a meeting with the Officiating Pastor or Member Care Pastor prior to consent to officiate is given.
- The bride and groom must attend premarital counseling at Christ's Church or with an approved counselor of Christ's Church.
- Remarriages after the divorce of a spouse will, in most cases, be performed if sufficient time has passed from the time the divorce was finalized.
- Both the bride and groom must sign The Christ's Church Marriage Covenant.
- No Pastor of Christ's Church will officiate if another Pastor of Christ's Church has refused to officiate due to any violation of the Christ's Church Wedding Guide.
- The Pastor will not officiate if either the bride or groom is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs before or during the rehearsal and/or ceremony.

PLEASE NOTE: Any member of the wedding party who is under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs will not be permitted to participate in the wedding. You are responsible for the communication and accountability of your wedding party.

Notes:

1. Contact the Pastor you wish to have officiate or the Member Care Pastor to schedule an interview. Member Care Pastor: 904-886-3963
2. Premarital Counseling at Christ's Church takes place one-on-one with a trained facilitator using SYMBIS Curriculum. This class satisfies the premarital counseling requirements for Duval, Clay, and St. Johns counties as well as Christ's Church. Contact the Member Care Pastor to register for the class. An outside counseling provider will need to be approved by the Member Care Pastor.
3. The Pastor will provide officiating fees based on time and travel involved.

Christ's Church Pastor – Officiating Wedding at a Christ's Church Campus

- The Guidelines apply as a Christ's Church Pastor officiating the wedding offsite, in addition to the guidelines below.
- Either the bride or groom must be a member of Christ's Church and both must be in good standing (willing to submit to the authority of Christ's Church).
- The bride and groom will meet with the Campus Associate Director to complete the rental agreement and reserve the facility. Fee schedule will be determined by the size and location of the ceremony and/or reception, timeframe, custodial and tech needs.
- The bride and groom must attend premarital counseling at Christ's Church.
- Ministers outside of Christ's Church may be used only with prior consent of the Member Care Pastor.

Notes:

1. Contact the Pastor you wish to have officiate or the Member Care Pastor to schedule an interview. (Member Care Pastor: 904-886-3963)
2. Call the Campus Associate Director to schedule a meeting to complete the rental agreement. (Campus Associate Director for all campuses: 904-886-3979)
3. Premarital Counseling at Christ's Church takes place one one-on-one with a trained SYMBIS Facilitator. This premarital counseling satisfies the requirements for Duval, Clay, and St. Johns counties as well as Christ's Church. Contact the Member Care Pastor to register for the class. Outside counseling providers will need to be approved by the Member Care Pastor.
4. Your wedding date will tentatively be added to the Christ's Church calendar until your meeting with the officiating Pastor or the Member Care Pastor is complete, the Christ's Church Marriage Covenant is signed and returned, and a 50% deposit is made on your rental agreement.
5. Three weeks prior to your wedding, all rental agreement fees must be paid in full and your pre-marital counseling complete.
6. The Officiating Pastor will determine officiating fees based on the time and travel involved. Pastor officiating fees will be paid directly to the Pastor at the rehearsal (or on the day of the wedding if there is no rehearsal).

Available Facilities

Mandarin Campus

Mandarin Room: (seats 200 at tables [Reception] and seating 350 in just chairs) Must be vacated by 7 p.m. Saturdays to prepare for Sunday services. The schedule for other days varies based on church programming.

Atrium: Must be vacated by 7 p.m. on Saturdays.

Outdoors:

- **Lakeside** (capacity 80) on the patio/foyer
- **Prayer Garden**

Worship Center: Only available upon special request

Fleming Campus

Worship Center: (seats 200) The stage set cannot be moved or cleared for Saturday weddings. The wedding ceremony must be completed by 7 p.m. Deadlines for other days vary based on scheduled church programming or events.

River City Campus

Worship Center: (seats 100) Must be vacated by 7 p.m. on Saturdays to prepare for Sunday services.

*No alcohol is allowed on the premises of any of our Church Campuses.

Christ's Church Marriage Covenant

Please read and sign below. Submit your signed covenant to your Officiating Pastor or the Community Care Pastor.

- I believe in one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's One and only Son, my One and only Savior.
- I am in good standing with Christ's Church (willing to submit to the authority of Christ's Church).
- I understand and agree to remain sexually pure until my wedding day (abstaining from premarital sex).

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 (NLT) God's will is for you to be holy, so stay away from all sexual sin. Then each of you will control his own body and live in holiness and honor- not in lustful passion like the pagans who do not know God and his ways. Never harm or cheat a fellow believer in this matter by violating his wife, for the Lord avenges all such sins, as we have solemnly warned you before. God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives. Therefore, anyone who refuses to live by these rules is not disobeying human teaching but is rejecting God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NLT) Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. Sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So, you must honor God with your body.

Acts 24:16 (NLT) Because of this, I always try to maintain a clear conscience before God and all people.

For weddings held on a Christ's Church Campus:

- I am, or my fiancé is a member of Christ's Church and is in good standing with Christ's Church.

I pledge to show my love for my soon-to-be spouse in ways that allow both of us to maintain a clear conscience before God and each other. I agree to submit to the authority of Christ's Church and agree to abide by this agreement and promise of purity.

Bride: _____ Date: _____

Groom: _____ Date: _____