

*Town and Country
Christian Church
Wedding Policy and Guidelines*



*2133 S Tucker Rd
Shelbyville, IN 46176
317-392-4890*

So You Want to Get Married

God our creator invented marriage for the benefit of men, women, children and society. Marriage is the foundation for a fulfilling home.

God said, “For this reason (marriage) a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they shall be come one flesh.” Genesis 2:24

Jesus quoted this truth and added to it, “so they are no longer two but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” Matthew 19:6

There are several options for a couple to consider:

First - A civil ceremony, where a couple is not looking for a wedding in a church building or having a Christian faith based wedding. Various public officials or some ministers can/may preside over these weddings. These weddings may be held in a variety of places, examples are: a home, an office, or a public building.

Second - Some may desire to have their wedding in a nice formal setting like inside a church building, wedding chapel or in an outdoor setting. Maybe there is no desire for a Christian faith based wedding. Some churches and ministers will accommodate such a situation while others do not.

Third - There is an option for those who want to build their marriage on Bible principles and under the banner of the authority of God and Jesus Christ. They desire to be married in a church building because their strong faith in Jesus is very important to them.

We are open to any of the above, provided the couple participate in our pre-marriage counseling. Our ultimate goal is to move people toward Christ and His saving Grace; however, each wedding is at the discretion of the minister (see disclaimer on page 4).

Please read carefully and seriously consider the information in this booklet. A successful marriage can result from: following the principles in God's Word (the Bible), hard work, a willingness to learn and an unselfish love.

What the Bible Teaches About Marriage

Marriage was invented by God for the benefit and happiness of people. Marriage is really a binding covenant in which a man and a woman pledge to each other their loyalty, love and even their very lives. The promises given as vows in the marriage relationship are to be based on mutual respect, trust and unselfish love. By God's design, marriage is the most personal relationship between two people.

God has given instructions and unchangeable principle to guide us in establishing a home that will result in joy and fulfillment. Consequences follow when these Biblical principles are ignored. It is so important for a couple preparing for marriage to understand and follow them.

As individuals, we need love, respect, security, acceptance and encouragement. These virtues grow in a marriage where each accepts the other unconditionally. Both must desire to grow in character and in relationship skills.

Marriage provides a loving and stable environment for raising children, caring for aged parents and influencing others.

Marriage is a life-long relationship. *"Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."* Matthew 19:6. It is essential that both families be in favor of the marriage. This covenant not only unites two individuals, but also their two families.

Bible Passages Dealing With Marriage

(Please look up these verses and study them carefully)

Marriage was designed by God. (Genesis 2:18-25).

We must protect marriage. (Hebrews 13:4).

Marriage is permanent. (Matthew 19:6).

Husband and wife relationships. (Ephesians 5:21-33).

Sex outside of marriage is against God's will.

(I Thessalonians 4:3-8).

Broken vows destroy a marriage. (Matthew 19:4-11).

The Bible teaches repentance and forgiveness. (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1-4).

Is pre-marriage counseling required?

Yes, the minister who performs your wedding will work with you in setting the number and type of sessions. Three is the minimum. The purpose of the counseling is to help you prepare and plan for the wedding and married life. There will be homework assignments from books, videos and evaluation tools. A fulfilling marriage is worth all the effort we put into it.

What about premarital sex?

The Bible teaches that sexual relationships outside of marriage are against God's will. Premarital intercourse, cohabitation, adultery and other kinds of sexual involvement leave scars that severely harm the marriage bond. We know that God is a God of Grace. He desires to help people step into alignment with His will; therefore, we will strive to help couples who have been or are sexually involved to move toward God as well as move toward the proper and right relationship with their partner.

What about divorce?

God clearly is against divorce. The emotional scars make remarriage an even more difficult task. But we know God is a God of peace and love. Our goal is to help people where they are at this time and show them God's love through counseling and teaching. We will strive to help the couple begin a new life together, as best as we can, in Christ.

What about a Christian marrying a non-Christian?

Marriage is designed for two people going together in the same direction. God's word instructs us not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. Differing beliefs in faith leads to conflict in nearly every area of life. We cannot participate in a marriage of a Christian and a person who does not have basic faith in Jesus.

Disclaimer

Every wedding and counseling session is under the discretion of our ministers. Each will be considered on Biblical grounds and time constraints. Our ultimate goal is to move people toward Christ and His saving Grace. We participate in weddings as it coincides with this.

REMEMBER: (call first to check on availability of the date)

1. It is important that the date be set at least 4 months in advance of the wedding to allow adequate preparation and counseling time.
2. One of the ministers of Town & Country must participate in the wedding unless permission is granted by leadership for another minister.
3. Saturday weddings must begin before 4:30 p.m.

Fill out the application form and send it to the church office (with the \$25.00 non-refundable deposit) to reserve your date. You will be contacted by the Facilities Attendant/Coordinator.

Wedding Application Form
Town & Country Christian Church
317-392-4890

Groom's Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Groom currently attends church at:

Bride's Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Bride currently attends church at:

Address after marriage: _____

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____

Photographer: _____ Phone: _____

Florist: _____ Phone: _____

Members of Town & Country Christian Church

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. ____ Sanctuary and fellowship/kitchen area. | No fee |
| 2. ____ Pianist/Keyboard player | *** |
| 3. ____ Audio technician (required) | *** |
| 4. ____ Visual/media technician | *** |
| 5. ____ Wedding coordinator (Purpose: to oversee set up, and coordinate details at the rehearsal and the wedding - including arrangement of the stage equipment. It may be a family member or friend if they are a member of our church) | *** |
| 6. ____ Custodial fee (Members are permitted to do their own cleaning if desired) | \$50.00 |
| 7. ____ Minister | *** |

(* Honorarium is left up to the discretion of the family)**

Non-Members of Town & Country Christian Church

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|---|----------|
| 1. ____ Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and Kitchen | \$250.00 |
| 2. ____ Pianist/Keyboard player | *** |
| 3. ____ Audio technician (required) | *** |
| 4. ____ Visual/media technician | *** |
| 5. ____ Wedding coordinator (Purpose: to oversee, set up, and coordinate details at the rehearsal and the wedding - including arrangement of the stage equipment. It may be a family member or friend if they are a member of our church) | *** |
| 6. ____ Custodial fee (It may be a family member or friend if they are a member of our church) | \$50.00 |
| 7. ____ Minister | *** |

(* Honorarium is left up to the discretion of the family)**

IMPORTANT NOTES: A \$250.00 damage deposit is also required 2 weeks prior to the event for non-members. It will be refunded in full after the event, if no damage to the property is found. For the building use fee and damage deposit, please make payable to Town and Country Christian Church. Fees for the individuals should be given directly to them. Suggestion: Write the name of each person on a separate envelope with the amount inside. Building use fee and the individual's fees must be paid the day of the rehearsal or earlier.

Policies for Using Our Building

- Town & Country Christian Church is a non-smoking environment, so smoking is strictly prohibited.
- The use of any alcoholic beverages or illegal narcotics are strictly prohibited on church property.
- Food and beverages are restricted to the Fellowship Hall area.
- Rice, birdseed, glitter, etc. are not allowed inside or outside the building.
- There will be no tacks used on the church seats or other furniture. The facilities, furniture, and fixtures are to be treated with utmost care.
- Candles (except votive candles in globes) must be the non-drip kind. Drop clothes must be used under any candelabras. An extra custodial fee will be charged if wax is found on the carpeting.
- All children and teenagers must be supervised by an adult.
- All food, drinks, and consumable supplies must be provided by the user.
- Town and Country Christian Church is not liable for theft or lost items.
- Town and Country Christian Church is not liable for injuries during non-church events.

Abuses of these policies are grounds for removal from the property. The individual(s) who reserved the facilities is responsible for those in their party, and will be held accountable for their actions.