



# DAYSPRING

## CHURCH

Congratulations on the decision you have made to enter into the covenant of marriage! We believe marriage is a gift from the Lord, given to us in order to put His greatness on display for the world (James 1:17, Matthew 5:14-16). Our desire at Dayspring Community Church (DCC) is to help in any way we can to get you ready for your wedding day. More importantly, while we desire couples to have a wonderful wedding day, our greatest passion is for your marriage to bring God the glory He deserves.

Whether we are providing you a location to get married and/or a pastor to officiate your ceremony, as the body of Christ, we are primarily concerned with God being honored in the process. Since marriage is one of the most important decisions you will ever make, we see it as our responsibility to help best prepare you for marriage. These policies may seem counter-cultural but are intended to bless you and your marriage. To that end, we have put together this wedding policy guide to help assist you in the process. In the following pages you will find all the information you need in order to use our facility, as well as pricing, policies, procedures, requirements/qualifications, and much more.

We hope that this wedding policy guide will be a great help to you. The first step is for you to become familiar with our policies and procedures as related to using our facilities (and/or being married by a Dayspring Pastor Offsite) by reading over this policy guide. The second step will be for you to contact the church office and we'll help you take your next steps.

May God bless you as you prepare for both your marriage and wedding day!

In Christ,

Marriage Ministry Team  
Dayspring Community Church

## OVERVIEW

Please note all necessary documents and fees must be turned in before any final plans are made

### Membership

Facilities are available for weddings exclusively to members of DCC who are actively serving in an area of ministry, children of active members, or to non-members who are actively pursuing membership at DCC.

- To become a member at DCC, an individual must:
  - 1) Attend the Membership Class
  - 2) Sign the Membership Covenant
  - 3) Actively pursue the commitments of membership
- Actively pursuing membership is defined as someone who has attended the Membership Class and has started to complete the membership requirements stated above.
  - 1) If you have not attended the membership class, you must agree to attend the next class.
  - 2) If you are not a member of a Life Group, then you must agree to join a Life Group (for newly married couples) at the next possible opportunity (offered 2-3 times per year).
  - 3) If you have questions about the membership process or your membership status, email [janek@dayspringchurch.com](mailto:janek@dayspringchurch.com). Couples must also complete the premarital process at DCC.
  - 4) Couples must attend the DCC Premarital Class, called Merge (offered several times throughout the year), as well as go through 2on2 premarital mentoring with a married DCC mentor couple.
  - 5) Adult children of DCC members may use the facilities for wedding ceremonies if at least one parent is an active member of DCC.
  - 6) If a parent is not a member of DCC, then the individual desiring to be married must either be a member or actively pursuing membership.

## AGREEMENT WITH DAYSPRING'S ESSENTIAL BELIEFS

### WHAT WE BELIEVE

#### THE BIBLE

The Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the final authority for Christian faith and living.

#### TRINITY

God exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and has revealed Himself to be perfect in love, and righteous in all His ways, and creator of all things.

#### FATHER

God is great: He is all powerful, all knowing, ever present, unchanging, completely worthy of our trust, and above all, holy. It is in Him that we live, move and exist. God is good: He is our Father. He is loving, compassionate, and faithful to His people and His promises.

#### SON

Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son. As true God and true man He allowed Himself to be born of a virgin, taught men how to live through His sinless life, was crucified as a sacrifice for our sins, arose bodily from the dead, was seen by over 500 people, and returned to heaven to prepare a place for us.

#### MAN

Men and women were created in God's image, tempted by Satan and rebelled against God.

#### SALVATION

Through repentance and personal faith in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven our sins, reborn by the Holy Spirit, and we become children of God.

#### HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit persuades us to repent of our sins and confess Jesus as Lord. He lives in us and teaches us. He provides for our growth in grace at every stage of our spiritual life, enabling us to live a victorious life through His power and presence.

#### THE CHURCH

The Church is the living Body of Christ on earth; He is its head and the source of its life. The Body is composed of those who have received Him as Savior and Lord. The church exists to bring glory to Jesus Christ and to accomplish His purposes.

#### JESUS WILL RETURN

Jesus Christ will return to earth to raise the dead, judge the world, and establish His glorious kingdom. This is the hope of the Church and its encouragement for ministry. Those who have been reborn will live with Him forever.

## Cohabitation Stance

The Scriptures teach that cohabitating couples fall short of God's standard for pre-married couples.

Despite growing popularity and practice of cohabitation within the broader culture today and even in some churches, we desire to honor scripture with respect to cohabitation prior to marriage. The findings of secular research notwithstanding, it is DCC's conviction that cohabitation is a biblically sinful decision for couples. If a couple decides to continue cohabitating, DCC will decline the use of a staff pastor for the marriage ceremony and will not host a wedding in our facilities.

We also ask couples who are living together but not having sex move into separate homes. Scripture tells us to "flee sexual immorality" (1 Corinthians 6:18) and to place yourself in a living situation that you have the best chance for purity and separation from temptation (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; Ephesians 5:3; Hebrews 13:4). It is our observation that couples that honor the Lord in every aspect of their relationship experience greater oneness, peace, and joy in marriage.

If you are currently cohabitating or have questions about cohabitation, and you would like to discuss this with us, please contact us if you have any questions.

## BEFORE THE WEDDING

### Merge

All couples are required to attend and complete Merge. The eight-week class is offered several times throughout the year and the weekend class is offered throughout the year as well for couples who are unable to attend the eight-week class. More information about this class will be available soon. The cost of the class is \$80/couple for the eight-week class and \$100/couple for the weekend class.

### Premarital Mentoring

In addition to completing the 8 sessions of Merge, all couples are required to complete premarital mentoring with either the pastor who will officiate the ceremony or a staff-approved mentor couple. Couples are required to take an online assessment of their relationship, which provides specific feedback (both strengths and growth areas). Results of the assessment will be discussed and reviewed with the mentor couple (4-6 sessions) and/or officiating pastor. The cost of the inventory is \$35/couple. If a mentor couple is meeting with you instead of the officiating pastor, you may be asked to meet with the officiating pastor 1-2 times, in order to discuss your service/ceremony as well as to give the pastor the opportunity to know you as a couple.

## The Marriage License

In order to officiate a ceremonial wedding, a marriage license issued by the State of Indiana is required. **A wedding will not take place without a valid marriage license.**

- Licenses are valid for a period of 30 days from issue date.
- Please discuss with your officiating pastor their process for obtaining and signing the license.

## Ceremony Rehearsal

Rehearsals are scheduled for the day before the wedding for one hour time slots and will be directed by the officiating pastor and the Wedding Coordinator. The entire wedding party should attend, including ushers and immediate family members. Rehearsals will begin on time and will last no longer than one hour. Participants should arrive **at least 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled start time**. Any changes must be approved by the Wedding Coordinator by the end of the rehearsal. There will be no changes on the day of the ceremony.

## THE WEDDING CEREMONY

### The Officiating Pastor

Whenever possible, we encourage you to select a pastor with whom you have a personal relationship. You will have the opportunity on your Wedding Application form to request a specific DCC pastor to officiate your ceremony. We will do our best to accommodate your requests; please note that the lead pastor may not be available to officiate your wedding. If you do not have a relationship with a pastor or if you do not have a preference of your wedding officiant, we will assign one of our pastors to officiate the ceremony.

DCC pastors maintain the right to back out of a ceremony at any time in the process if we do not believe the couple should be married. While we do not desire to see this ever happen, if a couple has not conducted themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel or if there are concerns about the potential health of the marriage, difficult conversations will be had with the couple.

### Officiating Pastor's Fee

DCC has a set fee for the officiating pastor of \$250.

## The Service

The Wedding Coordinator and the officiating pastor will be able to help you establish your ceremony's order and answer any questions you might have. Please select music that is in good taste and appropriate for a Christian wedding service. All music selections will be reviewed and approved by the DCC Wedding Coordinator.

## Vows

The wedding vows provide the opportunity for the two of you in the ceremony to express your lifelong commitment to one another. Please choose your words carefully and consider the weight of the commitment you are making. For instance, if you say that you are committing to stay married 'in sickness and in health, for better for worse, for richer for poorer', before you agree to get married, you must be willing to speak these words and live them out with integrity.

There are two primary choices you will need to make with your vows: you can either use standard vows (several different options for you in the [Appendix on pages 17-18](#)), or you may choose to write your own vows. If you choose to write your own vows, you will be asked to submit them to your officiating pastor two weeks prior to your wedding date so that he may review them before they are read publicly. We would suggest that you read your written vows (the pastor will hold your copy) and not try to memorize them. Please let your officiating pastor know which option you choose.

## Wedding Scriptures for Reading

You are encouraged to choose your own readings for your wedding. A suggested Scripture reading list is located in the [Appendix on pages 19-24](#). The Officiating Pastor and/or Wedding Coordinator will assist you in placing your reading(s) at the proper place(s) in the ceremony.

## GENERAL POLICIES

### DCC PREMARRIED WEDDING AGREEMENT

Congratulations on your decision to get married! Please take some time to read over the following information about the biblical, lifelong marital commitment you are about to make, as well as DCC's requirements related to preparing for marriage.

Many couples work very hard at putting together a beautiful wedding day, but most couples do not put time into preparing for the realities of marriage and do not consider the implications of entering into a covenant relationship with one another. For this reason, at DCC, we see premarital preparation as being an integral part of the wedding/marriage process, and for this reason will not allow couples to use our facilities unless they have taken steps to prepare for marriage.

While premarital education and mentoring is not biblically mandated per se, we believe premarital preparation would fall in line with seeking wisdom from the counsel of others (see Proverbs 9:1-12, 11:14, 15:22, 24:6). As a result, we require all couples who desire the use of our facility or a DCC pastor to officiate a ceremony, to complete the DCC premarital process. Specifically, we require couples to take and complete the DCC premarital class (8-week or weekend class), as well as 4-6 sessions premarital mentoring with a staff member, an approved DCC mentor couple, or your officiating pastor. If, for some reason, you are unable to complete DCC's pre-married class, you may be eligible to take another class (as approved by DCC marriage ministry).

## Qualifications

NOTE: The following qualifications will be assessed throughout the premarital process. The officiating pastor will determine whether or not the qualifications have been met by the individuals and couple. We will seek to determine whether or not the qualifications have been met as soon as possible in the pre-married process. There are occasions where the pre-married couple may not agree with the DCC pastoral assessment, but DCC staff will hold the final authority in the decision making process of whether or not a couple has qualified for facility usage.

### Spiritual Qualifications:

- Both male and female must be believers in Christ who are able to testify to their faith in the Triune God. At DCC, we believe salvation is a sovereign gift of God and is received by man through personal faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for sin. We believe man is justified by grace through faith apart from works (Acts 13:38-39; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 1:4-5 & 2:8-10).
- A believer is not permitted to marry a non-believer (2 Corinthians 6:14).
- You each will be asked to share your testimony throughout the premarital process.
- If either of you have been previously married, this must be discussed with the officiating minister at length. He may recommend that one or both of you see a counselor to discuss the unique challenges that divorce and remarriage presents - especially when children and families are blending together. The counselor must be chosen from Dayspring's list of approved local counselors. Meeting with a counselor for several sessions will be the first step in the marriage preparation process.
- Both must understand and be committed to the Biblical pattern of permanence in the one-flesh union that marriage creates (Matthew 19:6).
- Marriages will be officiated and hosted for only heterosexual couples – marriage is a covenant relationship established by God between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:3-6, Ephesians 5:21-33, among many other passages). This will hold true for DCC pastoral staff regardless of Indiana state law.

### Relational Qualifications:

- Each individual must be able to understand and accept the responsibility and commitment of marriage (Ephesians 5:21-33, Matthew 19:6)
- Each must have a realistic view of and an appreciation for marriage and the other person (1 Peter 3:7, Philippians 2:1-4)
- Each must agree to pursue biblical community both before and after marriage (Hebrews 10:24-25, Proverbs 11:14, 12:15, 13:10, 15:22, 16:25, 19:20, 20:18)

## Premarital Purity Pledge

We believe that sex is a gift from God to be enjoyed in the context of marriage and that He had our best in mind when He gave us strong directives about sexual purity before marriage. There are many benefits to staying sexually pure before marriage. By waiting until marriage:

- You please God and experience the blessing of obedience.
- You build trust, which is necessary for intimacy.
- You develop the godly qualities of patience and self-control.
- You affirm that you care more for the other person than yourself.
- You protect yourself from feelings of guilt and shame.
- You provide yourself with an example to give your (future) children and others.
- You are protected from emotional, mental and physical trauma should you break off your relationship.
- You develop healthy communication habits and skills.
- You avoid the possibility of an unplanned pregnancy.
- You avoid the possibility of contracting a sexually transmitted disease.
- You increase the anticipation and enjoyment of your wedding night.
- You discover more about each other than just the physical.
- If you are a Christian, you maintain a witness to the world.
- If you are a Christian, you keep from bringing reproach on the name of Christ.

Although many couples believe engaging in sex prior to marriage will strengthen their relationship, we believe the opposite is true. We believe sex outside of marriage can slow down the growth of a couple's relationship by causing emotional confusion and distracting couples from pursuing activities that would be more meaningful and beneficial during the dating/engagement stage of a relationship. We believe it is worth noting that research indicates a positive relationship between couples who live by biblical standards regarding purity and marriage longevity.

While physical intimacy is of huge importance in a healthy marriage, we do not believe it is the foundation upon which to build a great marriage. Therefore, the aim of this pledge is to help each couple focus on the essential building blocks of establishing a healthy marriage.

What is outlined below is a voluntary pledge, taken by a seriously dating or engaged couple, to sexual purity. This pledge is optional, but strongly encouraged. Therefore, we ask you to consider agreeing to limit your physical involvement, as indicated below, and to be held accountable by your mentor couple.

Sexual purity means much more than not having sexual intercourse before marriage. Many couples avoid intercourse but are still sexually intimate. Scripture defines sexual purity as being morally excellent. And moral excellence means being holy. It means avoiding the appearance of evil. It means purity of thought as well as purity of deed. It means protecting one another's innocence from being stained by impure actions.

Those considering or preparing for marriage are asked by their mentors to talk about the pledge privately and to pray about it before deciding whether to take this step. Regardless of what the decision is, the matter will remain a private one between Merge leadership and you. Ultimately, however, it is a spiritual matter between you and God.

Be honest about the physical part of your relationship. We know the Bible does not specifically address 'how far a couple can go before marriage,' however, it is clear that we are to flee from sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18).

If you are a follower of Jesus, then you want to live in a way that is radically different than culture. We are not to be conformed by the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of our mind (Romans 12:1-2).

Consider making a commitment to keeping your physical activities between #1 – #3.

- 1) Holding hands
- 2) Hugging
- 3) Light kissing
- 4) French kissing
- 5) Kissing on the neck, ears or other parts of the body
- 6) Indirect stimulation of the breasts/genitals
- 7) Manual stimulation of the breasts/genitals
- 8) Oral stimulation of the breasts/genitals
- 9) Intercourse

If your physical activities exceed #3, we suggest the following steps:

- Confess to the Lord, and repent of your actions (Psalm 51.3-4).
- Confess and seek forgiveness from your partner.
- Inform your mentor couple. We recommend the male contact the male leader within 24 hours after exceeding the physical limit. If the man does not do so, the woman should call the female mentor.
- Calling your mentor does not circumvent the need to confess your actions to God; however, letting your mentor know keeps you accountable, so your focus can be on the spiritual, character-building issues that are important in forging a lifelong committed marriage.

Please note our expectation is that individuals who are members or leaders at Dayspring Community Church will sign this pledge. If you chose not to, please initiate a conversation with Merge leadership and your community group so we can better understand your decision.

We pledge to hold our relationship to a Biblical standard, so the Lord might bless this relationship now, and in the many years ahead. Therefore, we agree to call our mentors if the physical involvement goes beyond level #3.

PREMARITAL COUPLE

MENTOR COUPLE

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1 Obtained from "Preparing for Marriage: Discover God's Plan for a Lifetime of Love" by David Boehi, et al

2 See Kahn and London, "Premarital Sex and the Risk of Divorce" in Journal of Marriage and Family (1991) 53:845-855.

3 Selected scripture related to sexual purity:

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body.

Ephesians 5:3 But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

Hebrews 13:4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous.

Proverbs 6:27-28 Can a man carry fire next to his chest and his clothes not be burned? Or can one walk with hot coals and his feet not be scorched?

## Statement on Cohabitation

### Biblical Marriage Relationship

The biblical picture of marriage is a formal commitment and covenant resulting in a man and a woman becoming one family that can only be separated by death (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6). This act of publicly leaving one's family (ceremony) and becoming "one flesh" involves sexual intercourse (1 Corinthians 6:18). Sex is intended to be enjoyed only within the marriage covenant. From an Old Testament perspective, scripture speaks out against sex outside of marriage 93 times, primarily ending with severe consequences (Leviticus 20:10-21; Exodus 20:14).

Similarly, in John 4:16-18 Jesus speaks of the issue of cohabitation directly. As Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman, he referenced the fact that the man she lived with was not her husband. Based on his interaction with the woman, Jesus clearly did not approve of her living situation.

The theme of sexual purity is also repeated throughout Acts and the Epistles. In Acts 15:20, the apostle James instructs new believers to abstain from sexual immorality. Similarly, the author of Hebrews states that marriage must be honored among all and a person's sexual life should be kept pure (Hebrews 13:4). For further support, see Galatians 5:19, 1 Corinthians 6:13 - 20, Ephesians 5:3 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3.

### Cohabitation in our Society

Webster's Dictionary defines a cohabitating couple as one that lives together and is sexually active.

1. Both the percentage of couples living together and moral acceptance of cohabitation are increasing among evangelical Christians.
2. The primary reason is fear, derived from a divorce rate that has more than tripled in the last 50 years leaving two generations with a very real fear of broken homes and broken marriages.
3. This leads couples to want to "test drive" living together without any formal commitment. While on the surface it sounds like a good idea, the negative consequences of cohabitation are validated in secular studies. The Center for Disease Control indicates that 80% of all couples who live together and get married will end up divorced
4. Couples that cohabitated before marriage were found to have less positive interactions (higher levels of unresolved conflict) which is a reliable predictor of the relationship's future success or failure.
5. Among cohabitating couples, domestic violence increases by five times the amount of married couples. Abuse, depression, financial hardship, and infidelity of your significant other greatly increase as well.
6. Practically, an individual must be willing to invest a great amount of time, money and other resources in a relationship that statistically only has a 20% chance of surviving.

## Conclusion

Despite growing popularity and practice within the church and culture, we desire to submit to scripture. The findings of secular research notwithstanding, it is Dayspring's conviction that cohabitation is a biblically sinful decision for individuals and couples. If a couple decides to continue cohabitating, Dayspring will decline the use of a staff pastor for the marriage ceremony. We also ask that couples who are living together but not having sex to move into separate homes from one another. Scripture tells us to "flee sexual immorality" (1 Corinthians 6:18) and to place yourself in a living situation that you have the best chance for purity and separation from temptation (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; Ephesians 5:3; Hebrews 13:4).

It is our observation that couples that honor the Lord in every aspect of their relationship, experience greater oneness, peace and joy in marriage. If you are currently cohabitating or have questions about cohabitation, your merge table leaders and/or the merge team would be happy to discuss further with you.

## Spending the Night & Traveling Together

We believe you can best honor God and one another, while dating, by not spending the night together or traveling alone together for the reasons listed below. Spending the night & traveling together:

1. does not protect your heart. (Song of Solomon 3:5 & Proverbs 4:23)
2. is not fleeing from temptation or immorality. (1 Corinthians 6: 18, 10:12-13 & Ephesians 5:3)
3. is not a good witness to others. (Romans 12:2 & Colossians 4:5)
4. is not the way to "test-drive" the relationship. (Proverbs 16:25)

If you have any questions, please discuss with your Merge table leader or Merge leadership.

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We ask that grace and understanding is expressed toward our position/conviction. We pray that the love, care, sensitivity and humility we have sought in writing this document would be evident to all who read it and are affected by our leadership. It would seem appropriate to conclude this statement by expressing our gratitude that the cross of Christ is sufficient to cover all of our sin, and we pray with you that His Spirit continually guides us into all truth.

1 Merriam-Webster Inc., Merriam-Webster's Dictionary and Thesaurus (Springfield, Mass.: Merriam-Webster, 2007). 2 The Barna Group, The Buster Report: A New Generation of Adults Bends Moral and Sexual Rules to Their Liking, Oct. 31, 2006. 3 Bramlett MD and Mosher WD. Cohabitation, Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the United States. National Center for Health Statistics. Vital Health Stat. 23(22). 2002. 26. 4 *ibid*, 56. 5 Kline, Stanley, Markman, Olmos-Gallo, St. Peters, Whitton and Prado, Timing is Everything: Pre-Engagement Cohabitation and Increased Risk for Poor Marital Outcomes. *Journal of Family Psychology*, Vol. 18. (2), 2004. 311-318. 6 John Mordechai Gottman and Nan Silver, *Why Marriages Succeed or Fail: What You Can Learn from the Breakthrough Research to Make Your Marriage Last* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994), 7 McManus, Michael and Harriet. *Living Together: Myths, Risks & Answers*. Howard Books, New York, NY, 2008, 41-57.

APPENDIX

SAMPLE ORDER OF SERVICE

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SAMPLE VOWS

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SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS

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Summary of Fees

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## SAMPLE ORDER OF SERVICE

1. Seating of Grandparents
2. Seating of Parents
3. Processional
4. Welcome
5. Giving of the Bride
6. Scripture Reading
7. Song
8. Message
9. Exchange of Vows
10. Giving of Rings
11. Lighting of Unity Candle
12. Communion
13. Prayer
14. Pronouncement of marriage

NOTE: if officiating pastor is not from Dayspring, please note on your ceremony program what church or organization he is representing

## SAMPLE VOWS

### Option #1

Do you, [groom], take [bride], to be your wife, according to God's holy decree; do you promise to be to her a loving and loyal husband, to cherish and keep her in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, to be faithful only to her as long as you both shall live? [I do.]

Do you, [bride], take [groom], to be your husband, according to God's holy decree; do you promise to be to him a loving and loyal wife, to cherish and keep him in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, to be faithful only to him as long as you both shall live? [I do.]

### Option #2

[Bride], will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live? [I will.]

[Groom], will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live? [I will.]

### Option #3

[Groom], the command of God to husbands is, "Husbands, love your wife as Christ loved the church and gave His own life for it." Loving as Christ is the key to the enjoyment of all that God has designed marriage to be. Therefore, do you willingly express your desire and intent to fulfill God's command to husbands and do you now commit to 'Wife' to be her husband? [I do.]

[Bride], the Scriptures teach that wives are to honor and respect their husbands, just as the church honors and respects Christ. To the wives God says, "Wives, be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church." 'Wife', this command of God is His word designed to make your marriage relationship a thing of beauty and joy. So in acceptance of this principle of God's word, do you now commit yourself to 'Husband' to be his wife, to join your lives together in living, permanent union as Christ to His church? [I do.]

### Option #4

I, [groom], take you [bride], to be my wedded wife. To have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness or in health, to love and to cherish 'till death do us part. (or as long as we both shall live) And hereto I pledge you my faithfulness.

I, [bride], take you [groom], to be my wedded husband. 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 do us part. (or as long as we both shall live) And hereto I pledge you my faithfulness.

#### Option #5

I, [groom], take you [bride], to be my wedded wife, and I do promise and covenant before God and these witnesses, to be thy 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.

I, [bride], take you [groom], to be my wedded husband, and I do promise and covenant before God and these witnesses, to be thy loving and faithful wife; in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, as long as we both shall live.

#### Option #6

I do commit myself to you, [bride], before God, to be your faithful and loving husband for all the years of our earthly life, to seek to love you even as Christ loves the Church, which is His bride.

I do commit myself to you, [groom], before God to be your faithful and loving wife for all the years of our earthly life to cherish our relationship in Christ and God's order for the family.

#### Option #7

I, [groom], created in God's image solely for His glory, saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, promise to love you, [bride], not only with words, but with actions and truth so that God's love is brought to full expression through us. I promise to be considerate and treat you with respect, to feed, care for, and manage our family well. Not to be harsh, quick-tempered, or overbearing. I will keep myself only unto you. I will put God first and you second, striving to love you better each day as your husband and your best friend. As Christ taught us to love by laying down His life I too will gladly lay down my life to protect you. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates us.

I, [bride], created in God's image solely for His glory, saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, promise to love you, [groom], not only with words, but with actions and trust so that God's love is brought to full expression through us. I promise to submit to you as you submit to Christ, to bring you good, not harm, to honor you with the dignity and reverence of my life keeping myself only unto you. I will put God first and you second, serving alongside you as your helper. I will strive to love you better each day as your wife and your best friend. Where you go, I will go and your God will be my God. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates us.

#### Option #8

I [groom] / [bride] take you [bride] / [groom] as my wedding wife / husband to have to and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness or in health, to love and to cherish, 'til death do us part, for as long as we both shall live

## SUGGESTED SCRIPTURE READINGS (all listed in English Standard Version)

### Old Testament:

#### Genesis 2:18-24

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him. Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature that was its name. The man gave names to all the livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

#### Ruth 1:16-17

But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people and your God my God. 17Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you."

#### Isaiah 55:12-13

For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

#### Isaiah 63:7

I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

#### Psalms 33

Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright. Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD. By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm. The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; he frustrates the plans of the peoples. The counsel of the

LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds. The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue. Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine. Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.

#### Psalm 34:1-3

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!

#### Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

#### Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are His; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

#### Psalm 150

Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

#### Proverbs 18:22

He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.

#### Song of Solomon 2:10-13

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away, for behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time

of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree ripens its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my beautiful one, and come away.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

New Testament:

Matthew 5:13-16

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 7:24-27

Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

Matthew 19:4-6

He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

Mark 10:6-9

But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let not man separate.

#### John 15:9-15

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

#### Romans 12:9-18

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

#### 1 Corinthians 13:1-8

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.

#### Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

#### Galatians 6:2

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

#### Ephesians 3:17b-20

...that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is

able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...

Ephesians 4:1-6, 20-32

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

But that is not the way you learned Christ! — assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Ephesians 5:21-33

...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

Philippians 2:1-4

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in

humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Colossians 3:12-17

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on) love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Hebrews 13:4-6

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?"

1 Peter 4:8

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

1 John 3:18

Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.

1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

## SUMMARY OF FEES

Merge	\$80 or \$100
Pre-marital Assessment	\$35
Officiating Pastors Fee	\$250

For Building Rental and timing, see the Building Use Guidelines.