

Weddings at Covenant
During the COVID-19 Pandemic
August 10, 2021

These guidelines were developed by the Reopening Task Group of Elders appointed by the Session, with input from the Covenant Wedding Committee. In undertaking this work, the Reopening Task Group consulted with medical and infectious disease experts in the congregation. They ultimately decided it is most responsible and in keeping with our love of God and neighbor that rules at Covenant will likely be more stringent than state guidelines.

This is a living document. As Covenant leadership monitors public health trends for the Corona virus, it may be updated by the Reopening Task Group.

Weddings

- As of the date of this document, weddings may be held in the sanctuary with no limits in the number of persons present.
- Weddings in the Chapel are limited to 20 participants.

Wedding Guests

- Wedding guests must wear masks when they are inside a building on the Covenant campus. Masks are not required when outdoors.
- Seating will be in designated pews.

Wedding Ceremony

- Music may be offered by soloists, groups up to 20 singers or non-wind instrumentalists, placed so that safe distances can be maintained between them and all other persons. A group of no more than four singers may be unmasked while performing so long as they show proof of vaccination to the wedding director before the wedding rehearsal. During times they are not performing, soloists, singers and instrumentalists must be masked.
- Bulletins, pew hymnals and Bibles, and pens/pencils may not be used.
- Congregational singing is permitted for two hymns. As with Sunday services, the congregational must remain masked while singing.
- Lay readers may participate without masks from the lectern or other location in the chancel. During the time they are not speaking, these persons must remain masked.
- Communion cannot be offered as part of the wedding service at this time.

Wedding Party

- The couple is not required to wear masks while in the sanctuary.
- Other members of the wedding party must wear face coverings at all times while inside. This includes during the processional, ceremony, and recessional.
- The couple is not required to wear masks while in the sanctuary.
- The wedding party may arrive no more than 1 ½ hours and no less than one hour before the wedding ceremony. The wedding party includes the couple, their attendants, and immediate family members.
- The dressing area off the Chapel narthex may be used by the bride and one other designated person before the wedding. Other members of the wedding party are asked to arrive at the church dressed and ready for the service.
- Members of the wedding party may assemble before the ceremony in the Chapel and/or a conference room in the Welcome Center.
- If children are part of the wedding party, they must be able to maintain appropriate distances from other persons or be accompanied by a household member to assist them. Children under age 12 in the wedding party must be masked.

Photographers/Videographers/Wedding Photos/Florists

- Photographers and videographers must wear masks while inside buildings on campus.
- Florists delivering flowers or others assisting in placing flowers in the sanctuary must wear face coverings while inside the church.
- Photographs of the wedding party may be taken inside the church.
- Photographs may be taken inside the sanctuary only after the wedding ceremony.
- Photographs of large groups may occur only outside.

Rehearsals

- Following state and county recommended guidelines **all** members of the wedding party and any others attending rehearsal will be required to wear a face covering while indoors. This also includes the minister, musicians and the couple. The couple is not required to wear masks while in the sanctuary.
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Pre-Wedding Tours

- Pre-wedding tours with prospective couples may be conducted in-person or virtually.