

Weddings at Covenant

As Covenant Reopens for In Person Worship

June 22, 2021

Since the beginning of the pandemic, a Re-Opening Task Force of Elders, appointed by Covenant's Session has guided the church on how and when to reopen our campus, making faithful decisions guided by our call to love God and love neighbor, with a goal of keeping our staff and congregation safe and healthy.

At present Covenant is open for in-person worship services with no limitations on number of participants. Correspondingly, these wedding guidelines have been updated to reflect the latest public health guidance.

This is a living document. As Covenant leadership monitors public coronavirus health trends, the Re-Opening Task Force may revisit these guidelines and reserves the right to make changes accordingly.

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 of up to 20 singers or non-wind instrumentalists, placed so that safe distances can be maintained between them and all other persons. Musicians 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, musicians must be masked.
- If Communion is offered, the details must be worked out with the minister to ensure safety of the participants.
- 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.
- Congregational singing is permitted for two hymns. As with Sunday services, the congregation must remain masked while singing.

Wedding Party

- Adults and children 12 years of age and older in the wedding party are not required to wear masks while in the sanctuary and in the narthex while waiting to enter the sanctuary; however, at all other times while inside the church buildings, the wedding party is required to wear masks.
- The wedding party may arrive no more than 1-1/2 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 or the church parlor 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 or other designated place in the church.
- Ushers may seat guests, but must be masked while ushering.
- 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 of large groups may occur only outside.

Pre-Wedding Tours

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