

Calvary Christian Church

Off-Site Wedding Policies

The leadership of Calvary Christian Church wants to help protect and value the personal and family time of our ministry staff. As wedding ceremonies are additional responsibilities to their job descriptions, we feel it is fair and responsible to ask that a minister's time is valued for the hours and efforts that are required to plan and conduct a wedding ceremony. As weddings often require 10-20 hours of effort, this policy is an effort to help protect and value our ministers while ensuring their families' time and sacrifices are also shown value.

This document is intended to be a personal contract between the minister and the engaged couple.

In agreement to performing an off-site wedding ceremony, the minister agrees to:

- Help place the couple in Calvary's pre-marital coaching sessions - or a similar program.
- Work with the couple to plan and organize their wedding ceremony.
- Write a personal and appropriate wedding message.
- Conduct a wedding rehearsal if one is necessary.
- Conduct the wedding ceremony.

In agreement to hiring a CCC minister to perform an off-site wedding, the couple agrees to:

- Abide by the CCC Elder's Statement, which are listed on backside of this document.
- Complete CCC's pre-marital coaching sessions - or a similar program.
- Compensate the officiating minister \$250 for the above described duties.
- Pay mileage, meal, and lodging expenses for out of town weddings:
 - Mileage rate of 40 cents/mile (calculated roundtrip from CCC to wedding site and back).
 - Meals while traveling should be calculated at \$10/meal.
 - Lodging should be provided at the hotel the family/wedding party will be staying.
- Pay fees/expenses in full to minister one week before the date of the wedding.
 - Officiating minister's address: _____

On _____ (date), we agree to the preceding expectations and responsibilities,

Minister's Signature: _____ Contact (cell/email): _____

Groom's Signature: _____ Contact (cell/email): _____

Bride's Signature: _____ Contact (cell/email): _____

(Document should be photocopied and both the minister and bride/groom should be given a copy.)

Elders' Statement Regarding Marriage

We want to do everything possible to help you develop a solid and healthy foundation for your marriage. We view the agreement to perform your wedding to be more of a partnership than a one time event. Our responsibility is to a) give you the necessary tools for building a strong marriage and b) teach the scriptural guidelines that God has established for marriage.

We believe that God created marriage and has given us basic principles and guidelines that will help us experience joy and fulfillment in marriage. This wedding policy is based on the application of these principles and other guidelines that will help you to not only have a wonderful wedding but also help you build the foundations for a strong and healthy marriage. Please read these policy guidelines carefully. Your responsibility is to determine if you choose to follow these guidelines so that we can enter into a partnership with you in your marriage preparation.

- 1. We ask that you commit to our marriage preparation program.** Our premarital coaching sessions will match you with a trained married couple who will guide you through materials (6-8 sessions) that will enhance and enrich your relationship and understanding of marriage and its challenges.
- 2. We recommend that you allow at least four months preparation time for your wedding.** This will allow the time to go through the premarital coaching sessions as well as time to plan out your wedding.
- 3. We ask that you faithfully attend worship services at Calvary during the four months of preparation.** Again, we want to be in partnership with you and not just perform a wedding ceremony. We feel it is important for you to know who we are and what we stand for.
- 4. We ask that if you are divorced, a reasonable time of legal divorce must pass before consideration for remarriage.** We believe a new relationship should not be pursued until the potential of a healthy reconciliation has been exhausted and time for personal recovery has passed. (1 Corinthians 7:10-11)
- 5. We believe that a follower of Christ should only marry another follower of Christ.** Scripture is very clear that those who have given their lives to Christ and live in an authentic relationship with Him, should also be seeking to be joined together with someone who is also being transformed by Jesus Christ. For this reason we will not conduct a wedding that joins a Christian together with a non-Christian. (1 Corinthians 7:39, 2 Corinthians 6:14-16, 1 John 5:1-5)
- 6. We ask that you commit to sexual purity prior to marriage.** Couples who are currently sexually active are asked to abstain from sexual intimacy until after marriage. The principle of sexual purity prior to marriage is very clear in scripture. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Hebrews 13:4)

The choice to follow these guidelines in order to be able to be married at Calvary is up to you. Whether or not you choose to get married at Calvary, we sincerely hope that you will choose to follow these principles as they will lead to many blessings in your relationship and marriage. If you have an extenuating circumstance in regard to this policy, that needs special consideration, you are invited to express this at the initial appointment/consultation and our leadership will determine if an exception to our policy can or should be made. May God richly bless you as you begin this new journey together!