

Requirements for Church Wedding

COMMITMENT

WEDDING DATE

BAPTISM

REGISTRATION WITH ROM

PROCEDURES

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:13)



C O M M I T M E N T

The couple must show seriousness and commitment in preparing for the marriage and not just for the wedding.

The church is not obligated to give consent to the wedding in the event of a major concern regarding the preparedness of the couple for marriage. In such cases, a postponement of the wedding may be recommended.



F A Q

Why is the church making such requirements?

- There is a major difference between a wedding and a marriage. A wedding lasts for an hour or so but a marriage lasts for a lifetime.
- Most couples spend hundreds of hours preparing for the wedding but hardly any time preparing for the marriage.
- The task of the church is not just to conduct weddings. The Registrar of Marriage is fully capable of doing that. The task of the church is to help couples build Christian homes. The church blessing presumes the fact that the couple understands the teaching of Scripture concerning the marriage covenant and has seriously sought the mind of the Lord on this important decision.
- The pastors of the church are responsible before God for the welfare of the sheep. They are answerable to God for the lives of the people. This is why God says in Hebrew 13:17, "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you." It is not possible for the pastors to give such a blessing without going through a process of preparing the couple for the marriage. Our wedding requirements indicate a high sense of responsibility on the part of the pastors towards the sheep.



F A Q

Why is the church making such requirements?

- The church's involvement with the couple does not end at the wedding. In fact, the pastoral staff and the Small Group leaders continue to help them throughout their married life as long as they remain with the church. God has given the pastoral staff and Small Group leaders the awesome responsibility of caring for the sheep. They must do so with great diligence. As pastors and cell leaders, they are to watch over and be shepherds to the flock God has entrusted to them (Acts 20:28).



W E D D I N G D A T E

We would advise couple to only book a tentative date but not fix or book the banquet until they finish the Marriage Preparation Course (MPC) and have a personal meeting with the Pastor who will be marrying them.

These will help the couple iron out major issues, should they have, and that they are indeed ready for marriage.



F A Q

Why the advice that the wedding date be fixed only after the completion of the MPC?

- In the course of the MPC, couple may discover that there are major issues to iron out and may indeed not quite ready for marriage. By not fixing the date, this will provide them the time to work through these issues without feeling the pressure to get married if the date has been fixed and the banquet booked.

- Some possible problems are:
 - a. Lack of ability of one or both partners to adjust emotionally.
 - b. Refusal of one or both partners to respond spiritually.
 - c. One or more parent withholding consent for the marriage.
 - d. Failure to show commitment during the preparation stage.



B A P T I S M

Both the man and the woman must be baptized
Christians, and at least one of them must be
a member of Covenant Community Methodist Church.



F A Q

Why is baptism tied to the Church Wedding?

As Pastors, we take our role seriously, not just to conduct weddings but also to prepare our members for marriage. As shepherds to our sheep accountable to our Lord Jesus Christ, we seriously view marriage as the dedication of a couple's lives to the Lordship of Christ when they make their vows before God. Baptism is the individual's first step in acknowledging Christ as Lord, and therefore it only make sense that each be baptized before taking the step in Holy Matrimony. If one simply wants to have their wedding conducted, going directly to ROM for solemnization will suffice.

Why at least one of us must be a member of CCMC before the pastor will conduct our wedding?

Obviously the couple must be members of another church. One need to understand the need to submit to the spiritual covering of the church that one belongs to for protection and pastoral care. If the couple is from another church, they should approach their pastor to conduct their wedding. If the couple are not member of any church or not baptized, then the couple should consider getting baptized and be member of CCMC first before their wedding.



R E G I S T R A T I O N
W I T H R O M

Those who have been officially registered and have consummated the marriage will forfeit a church wedding. A Marriage Blessing Service may be held instead.



P R O C E D U R E S

- The couple should first fill in the Application Form and submit it to the Church Office.
- After their pastor has approved their application, the couple will be contacted to do the PREPARE-ENRICH assessment. Please submit application form together with:
 - a. Photocopy of individual Identity Cards.
 - b. Photocopy of Baptism & Church Membership Certificate.
 - c. If applicant is from another church, a letter of blessing from the pastor of that church.
- You will then be required to attend the Marriage Preparation Course.



P R O C E D U R E S

- After completion and the marrying pastor is satisfied that the couple has shown commitment to the marriage and that no serious problems exist between them, he/she will be given consent for a church wedding.
- The couple will then go ahead, in consultation with the marrying pastor, to fix a wedding date.
- Next, it is the responsibility of the couple to file notice of marriage at least 25 days ahead of solemnization date with the ROM, to obtain a marriage license. This license must be given to the Church Office at least three days before the wedding.