



## WEDDING & MARRIAGE POLICY

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| <b>Document To Be Reviewed By:</b> | Executive Director |
| <b>Frequency of Review:</b>        | 5 Years            |
| <b>Last Review Date:</b>           | 6/23/2026          |
| <b>To Be Approved By:</b>          | Executive Director |
| <b>Date Approved:</b>              | TBD                |

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# WEDDING & MARRIAGE

The Bible commends marriage to be honored among all people. WMC sees a wedding as a coming together in the presence of God to witness the joining together of a man and a woman in marriage. Marriage was established by God in creation when He created and then gave Adam his wife. The Lord Jesus adorned it by His presence (and first miracle) at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. The apostle Paul chose marriage to symbolize the union between Christ and His church, and the Scriptures end with a wedding feast in John's Revelation of Jesus Christ. Marriage is a terrestrial picture of a celestial reality.

So, because marriage is woven into the very fabric of Scripture from beginning to end, we understand it to be sacred and worthy of careful and deliberate reflection.

Those who officiate a wedding ceremony at WMC will need to be approved by the Lead Pastor.

## I. Marriage Ceremony Policies and Guidelines

### A. Scheduling of Wedding

- The first step in the scheduling of the wedding ceremony would be contacting the Administrative Coordinator.
- All those who desire to be married by a WMC pastor are required to complete premarital counseling. Please plan on a minimum of six (6) counseling sessions.
- The ceremony will be scheduled once the fees are paid.
- Scheduling a wedding date is at the discretion of the church office and will be pursued with deference to our church staff. Please note we do not typically schedule weddings on holiday weekends.

### B. Fees

Please make your checks payable to Woodburn Missionary Church. A wedding date will be confirmed on the church calendar once payment has been made, the digital request to schedule an event has been submitted for both the rehearsal and wedding, and the "Digital Wedding Ceremony" agreement form has been submitted. Please contact the church office so we can email you this form. The Rehearsal Dinner fees only needs to be paid if you are having a Rehearsal Dinner at WMC.

#### **Mandatory Fees (if having the ceremony at WMC):**

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Sanctuary                         | \$200            |
| Sound tech                        | \$100            |
| Pastor (includes counseling)      | \$250            |
| Custodial                         | \$150            |
| Rehearsal Dinner (Café & Kitchen) | \$100 (Optional) |

### C. Time of Wedding

- We would request Saturday weddings begin before 4:00 PM.
- WMC does not offer wedding services on Sundays.
- Please note we do not typically schedule weddings on a holiday weekend.

### D. Ministers Outside of WMC

- Weddings may be officiated by persons who have been approved by the Lead Pastor at WMC. The couple pursuing marriage should initiate contact between the officiant and the Lead Pastor through the Church Office.

- The officiant should agree with our church's policies and procedures, and the opening statement under "weddings and marriage."

**E. Rehearsal**

The rehearsal lasts about an hour. If you choose to have your rehearsal dinner at WMC, please plan on it being in the Café.

**F. Media & Decorations**

All music used during any part of the wedding needs to be approved. Please have all media submitted to the Director of Worship one month before your ceremony. This includes music, videos, photos, handouts, etc. Decorations are allowed at WMC with the discretion of either the Executive Director or the Director of Worship. Please make sure your decorations will not cause any damage to the church.

**G. Dressing at the Church**

You and your attendants are welcome to get ready for your ceremony at WMC. We have specific rooms designed for this.

**H. Sound System**

WMC will arrange to have a sound technician for your wedding.

**I. Clean-up**

After your event, please make sure the following is done before you leave:

- All personal decorations are removed and disposed of
- Any items belonging to the church are put back
- All areas of the church used are as they were prior to your usage

**J. Other Reminders**

- The main aisle in the sanctuary is 75 feet. (In case you wanted an aisle runner)
- We ask that no glitter is used in the church.
- If you have your guests celebrate you as a couple when you leave the building, please make sure what your guests are using does not create a mess. Ex. Rice, birdseed, confetti.
- Remember to provide your wedding license to the officiating pastor at the rehearsal.

## II. Wedding Ceremony Agreement

Since marriage is understood in the Scriptures to be a “covenant” between a man and a woman and described, by Jesus, as becoming “one flesh” (Mark 10:8), it is important that the couple pursuing marriage and WMC are in agreement about what is happening in the ceremony.

- Because of the number of requests we receive and limited staff availability, we will only facilitate weddings for couples who are a part of the WMC family or have shown a desire to be active in the life of our congregation.
- Weddings will be officiated by pastors at WMC or by other clergy approved by the Lead Pastor.
- Pre-marital counseling of at least six (6) sessions will be a prerequisite prior to the date of the wedding.
- Couples who are cohabitating will be counseled on a case-by-case basis toward obedience that honors the Lord and makes it possible for WMC to truly bless the marriage being pursued.
- Couples who have divorce in their past will likewise be counseled on a case-by-case basis to discern the reason for the divorce and whether or not WMC can bless the union of the concerned individuals.
- Each couple who seeks to be married at WMC by one of our pastors should be willing to comply with our “Weddings and Marriage Policy.”
- If the couple agrees to the stipulations and conditions in our Policy, please sign below as affirming the following: The undersigned understand and will comply with this document and all other related documents issued by Woodburn Missionary Church.

Groom's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ALWAYS BE HUMBLE AND GENTLE. BE PATIENT WITH EACH OTHER, MAKING  
ALLOWANCE FOR EACH OTHER'S FAULTS BECAUSE OF YOUR LOVE.  
Colossians 4:2 (NLT)