

MARRIAGE POLICY FOR CHRIST CHAPEL

Marriage is a union ordained by God between a man and a woman only. It was first instituted by Almighty God in the early chapters of Genesis, and codified in the Levitical law. The Old Testament prophets compared marriage to a relationship between God and His people. Examples of it are in the historical narratives of Scripture, and Scripture's wisdom books which discuss the unique unity of this relationship. Several New Testament Epistles give explicit instructions on the union. Marriage is a typology of Christ and the Church. As such, this church views marriage as a profound spiritual institution established by God. Due to the importance of marriage in the biblical witness, this church adopts the following policy:

CLERGY

1. Only duly recognized, licensed or ordained clergy of Christ Chapel shall officiate at marriage ceremonies conducted on this church property, unless the current pastor gives his permission to allow an outside clergy member to marry a Christ Chapel member in the sanctuary or the property.
2. Clergy employed by this church shall be subject to dismissal and /or loss of ordination for officiating a same gender or transgendered marriage ceremony.

APPLICANTS

1. Applicants must be members of Christ Chapel or be immediate family members in order to have a ceremony performed.
2. Clergy, who are employed by Christ Chapel, may perform Biblical wedding ceremonies of their choosing. Clergy who are members, but not employed by Christ Chapel, may perform Biblical wedding ceremonies of their choosing.
3. Applicants shall agree to receive a minimum of two hours of premarital counseling by the clergy of Christ Chapel.
4. The clergy has the option of denying members or immediate family members of the church a wedding ceremony, if it is deemed the member is not following the Christian lifestyle as directed in Scripture. The current pastor of Christ Chapel will not marry a couple, nor allow a fellow clergyman to marry a couple, who have been divorced unless their spouse is deceased or their spouse was unfaithful to their marriage, as is stated in Matthew 19:6-9.
5. This church does not provide a wedding coordinator or other outside needs of the applicant.

PREMISES

1. Any marriage performed on church premises shall be officiated by a licensed or ordained clergy of Christ Chapel.
2. Clergy officiating marriage ceremonies on church premises shall affirm their agreement with the church's statement of beliefs and any other regulations of Christ Chapel.
3. The clergy assigned by Christ Chapel to implement the procedures contained in this policy may, in his sole discretion, decline to make church facilities available for, and/or decline to officiate at a ceremony when in his judgment, there are significant concerns that one or both of the applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred bond of marriage for theological, doctrinal, moral or legal reasons.
4. For church members, there is no fee charged to use the facilities of Christ Chapel, but applicants are encouraged to make a suitable donation which would cover the cost of cleanup or other services as needed. Otherwise, it is the responsibility of the bride/groom and their families to see that the facility is cleaned, returned to the same condition as prior to use and completely vacated no later than 10:00 pm. Any equipment not belonging to Christ Chapel must be removed promptly after the wedding. Please provide the church administrator with the name and telephone number of a contact person (who is not in the wedding party) who will be responsible for any lost and found items to be picked up at the church.
5. To assure the availability of church facilities, the applicant needs to contact the pastor or church administrator with the wedding date. This date must be officially approved by the church leadership. The wedding ceremony cannot be scheduled during regular church activities.
6. For any questions, you may call 830-796-7154 during office hours to make an appointment for further inquiries.