

Living Grace Community Church Marriage Policy

Marriage is a union ordained by God. It was first instituted by God in the early chapters of Genesis, codified in the Levitical law. The Old Testament prophets compared it to a relationship between God and his people. Examples of it are in the historical narratives, and the wisdom (poetic) books discuss the unique unity of the relationship. Jesus explained the original intention and core elements of marriage, and several New Testament Epistles give explicit instructions on this union. Marriage is a typology of Christ and the Church. As such, the Church views marriage as a profound spiritual institution established by God.

Legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities such as, but not limited to, adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality, pedophilia and bestiality are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church. Further, lascivious behavior, the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, and efforts to alter one's gender, are incompatible with the biblical witness.

Living Grace Community Church recognizes marriage as exclusively the legal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment.

Due to the importance of marriage in the biblical witness, this church adopts the following Marriage Policy:

Clergy:

1. Only duly licensed and/or ordained clergy shall officiate at marriage ceremonies conducted on church property.
2. Clergy employed by the church shall be subject to dismissal and/or loss of licensing or ordination for officiating a marriage ceremony inconsistent with this Marriage Policy.

Applicants:

1. Applicants wishing to have a ceremony performed by a member of the clergy employed by the church, or to use the church facilities, shall affirm their agreement with the theological, doctrinal and moral beliefs of the Church regarding marriage as stated in this Marriage Policy and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
2. Applicants shall receive eight hours of premarital counseling by clergy or counselors employed by the church or other persons who, in the sole opinion of the pastoral staff of the church, have appropriate training, experience, and spiritual understanding to provide such counseling.

Premises:

1. Any marriage performed on the church premises shall be officiated by a member of the clergy.
2. Clergy officiating marriage ceremonies on the church premises, whether or not employed by the church, shall affirm their agreement with the theological, doctrinal and moral beliefs of the Church regarding marriage as stated in this Marriage Policy and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
3. The clergy assigned by the church to implement the procedures contained in this Marriage Policy may, in his or her sole discretion, decline to make church facilities available for, and/or decline to officiate at, a ceremony when, in his or her 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.