

## **Le Mars Bible Church Wedding Policy**

The Scriptures clearly teach the high value God places on marriage and the family. The institution of marriage was established by God in creation (*Genesis 2:18-25*). Furthermore, marriage is a beautiful picture of the union between Christ and the church (*Ephesians 5:22-33*). For these reasons, God says it is to be honored among all people (*Hebrews 13:4*).

Le Mars Bible Church desires to nurture God-honoring marriages rather than merely perform weddings. We want to do everything possible to help establish a firm foundation for a strong and stable, Christ-centered relationship. We believe this requires a clear understanding of the Scriptural teaching concerning marriage. Because of our commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching of the Bible, the following requirements shall apply to all weddings performed by the pastors in this church:

1. The church facilities are available for weddings of those families who attend LBC regularly and consider it their church home and who sincerely desire that the wedding ceremony be solemnized in a house of Christian worship and ministry. All weddings in the church will have the final approval of the elder board.
2. The couple desiring to be married may approach any LBC staff pastor to perform their wedding ceremony. The couple will then submit "personal information sheets" (available from the pastor) well in advance of the wedding. The pastor will schedule an initial meeting with the couple to explain the wedding policy, and answer questions. If the couple is in agreement with the policy, counseling sessions (see #8) will be scheduled.
3. All details concerning the wedding service and reception shall be distinctively Christian and honoring to Christ. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the church facility.
4. Both the bride and the groom must be born-again believers in Christ (*1 Corinthians 7:39, 2 Corinthians 6:14*). The couple will provide a brief written or oral testimony of their salvation experience and present relationship with Christ.
5. There shall be no known violation of the Biblical standards for marriage.
  - A. Marriage as designed by God is to be between one man and one woman, and any violation of this design is sinful. Therefore, same-sex marriages will not be performed by LBC's pastors nor will such a wedding take place in the church facility (*Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26-28; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11*).

- B. Premarital sexual involvement is contrary to God's will, therefore the couple must be maintaining a relationship free from immorality. Where this has not been the case, the couple must demonstrate genuine repentance and establish moral purity in the relationship (*1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Ephesians 5:25-27*).
- C. We believe Scripture teaches that remarriage after divorce (while the former spouse is living) is contrary to God's standards for marriage (*Matthew 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18; Romans 7:1-3, 1 Corinthians 7:10-16, 39-40*). We recognize that there are other interpretations of the relevant Scriptures, and that church members may come to a different conclusion in the matter. However, if a divorced member of this church chooses to remarry while the former spouse is living, the marriage will not be performed by the pastors nor will the wedding take place in the church facility.
6. There may be other situations where the pastor's convictions will not permit him to perform the marriage ceremony. In such cases, he will discuss his reasons with the couple.
  7. The couple will have demonstrated their Christian commitment by attendance at church services.
  8. The couple will commit themselves to spend a minimum of six sessions in premarital counseling with the pastor. The initial session must take place at least six months prior to the wedding, but in any event, prior, to invitations being sent.
  9. A Christian wedding held in a church is more than a mere ceremony — it is a worship service. The wedding ceremony also provides an opportunity for the couple to publicly testify of their love for and commitment to Christ. Music which communicates this should be carefully selected. Secular music is not appropriate in a Christian wedding. The couple will inform the pastor of the music desired two months in advance in order to insure its acceptability.
  10. If the couple desires an outside minister to take part in the wedding, it must be approved in advance by the elder board.

Adopted 1/16/95

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LBC Board of Elders