



*Preparing
For Your
Wedding*

Wedding Date penciled in on: _____
Signed form and deposit due: _____



PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Scott Ream, Senior Pastor
Rev. James Cameron, Executive Pastor
Rev. Willoughby, Student Ministries
Mr. Jake Furman, Pastor of Worship
Rev. Don Robson, Visitation & Assimilation Pastor
Rev. Patrick Walsh, Parkview Campus Pastor
Mrs. Tanya Witt, Dir. of Congregational Care
Mrs. Sarah Koval, Dir. of Children's Ministries — Preschool & Family Ministry

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm
Phone: 445-8949 - Fax: 445-1817
E-mail: admin@somersetalliance.org



Welcome to Somerset Alliance Church! We, the pastors of the congregation, want to help you with your wedding plans. Within this folder you will find all the necessary information to help you plan for your special day. The policies and procedures have been drawn up by Somerset Alliance and must be followed as we prepare to make your wedding a joyful experience for all. If you have any questions about the guidelines, please do not hesitate to ask. We will do all we can to assist you in the planning process.

We look forward to working with you and making your wedding extra special. May God bless you as we plan for your future together!

Pastor Scott Ream, Senior Pastor

Pastor James Cameron, Executive Pastor

Pastor Todd Willoughby, Pastor of Student Ministries

Pastor Don Robson, Visitation & Assimilation Pastor

Wedding Guidelines



The establishing of a Christian home is one of the most important occasions that comes to the lives of a man and a woman. In recognition of this, the Church, her pastors, and organizations desire to be helpful and a blessing in every way. If there are ways beyond the scope of these guidelines in which we can be helpful, please feel free to call upon us.

The Biblical Standard for Marriage

A monogamous relationship in which a man and a woman share a lifetime commitment to each other, second only to their commitment to God. It is an unconditional, lifetime commitment. Jesus emphasized God's intention that marriage be a lifetime commitment (Mark 10:5-9, Matt. 19:4-9). Genesis 2:24 emphasizes the oneness of the marriage relationship and the priority of the relationship over all others, including the relationship of the couple to their parents. Marriage is also for companionship (Gen. 2:18-23). Paul described the kind of mutual submission that should characterize the marriage relationship (Eph. 5:21-23). Although the husband is head of the home, his role is modeled after the role of Christ as Head of the church, who "loved the church and gave Himself for it" (Eph. 5:25).

With scriptural truths in mind and our pastors' commitment to such truth, persons in the following categories will not be married by pastors at the Somerset Alliance Church.

1. Somerset Alliance Church subscribes to the biblical belief that God has instituted marriage as a covenant relationship between one man and one woman. The Somerset Alliance Church recognizes only such marriages for all policies and programs in the Somerset Alliance Church faith community.
2. "Unequal yoke" relationships. Basically, an "unequal yoke" situation has to do with a union between a born-again believer & an unbeliever. The pastors will inquire as to where potential marriage partners are in regard to a relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior.
3. Somerset Alliance Church subscribes to the biblical belief that sexual desire is rightfully fulfilled only within marriage. Persons living together out of wedlock do not qualify for church weddings. However, if the couple will recognize the sin of living together out of wedlock, come under pastoral counseling, and live separately until the marriage, the pastor may officiate.

4. Those who are divorced on other than clear scriptural grounds and where there is any possible chance for reconciliation. See Matthew 5:31-32 & other like scriptures.
5. All individuals to be married at SAC or by one of our pastors must receive pre-marital counseling. This shall be set up by the pastor performing the ceremony.

Statement on Divorce and Remarriage

Since divorces and remarriages are becoming increasingly common, the Church today must do everything in its power to encourage and maintain the institute of marriage. The Christian and Missionary Alliance has set forth what we understand to be the scriptural teaching on these subjects. The Bible teaches that divorce is a departure from the purposes of God (Mal. 2:16, Matt 19:8, Mark 10:6-9), although there are certain circumstances when it is permitted (Matt 5:23, Matt 19:9). Remarriage is also only permitted by Scripture under certain circumstances. (Rom. 7:2, 1 Cor. 7:39, Matt. 5:32, Mark 10:11-12). For the full statement of The Christian & Missionary Alliance’s view on Divorce and Remarriage see:
<https://www.cmalliance.org/about/beliefs/perspectives/divorce>

Statement on Human Sexuality

As such, the Somerset Alliance Church subscribes to the biblical belief that God creates human beings in His image as two distinct genders, male and female, and that the intended gender identity of an individual is determined by such individual’s biological sex at birth. The Somerset Alliance Church applies this belief regarding gender identity in all policies and programs in the Somerset Alliance Church faith community. In addition, the Somerset Alliance Church subscribes to the biblical belief that God has instituted marriage as a covenant relationship between one man and one woman. The Somerset Alliance Church recognizes only such marriages for all policies & programs in the Somerset Alliance Church faith community. Further, the Somerset Alliance Church subscribes to the biblical belief that sexual desire is rightfully fulfilled only within marriage and that unmarried singles who abstain from sex can be whole, mature persons, as pleasing to God as persons who are faithful in marriage. For the full statement of the Christian & Missionary Alliance’s view on Human Sexuality see:
<https://www.cmalliance.org/about/beliefs/perspectives/human-sexuality>

For further clarification please contact any of the pastors.

I understand the above guidelines and I am in agreement with them.

Groom _____

Bride _____

This statement has been adopted by the Senior Pastor and Executive Pastor. It is necessary that you agree to fully cooperate with these policies if you wish to use our facilities and/or the services of our pastors. It will be understood if you use our facilities, you will follow the policy statement regarding rehearsals, weddings, and receptions. Failure to do so will release us from the responsibility of performing the wedding.

Weddings performed by ministers other than Alliance pastors must be cleared by the Senior Pastor and/or the Board of Elders of the Somerset Alliance Church.

REHEARSAL

1. The date and time for rehearsals will be set by the pastor in consultation with the bride and groom (preferably 4-6 months before the wedding.)
2. It is expected that all the members for the wedding party will be present, unless an understanding has been reached prior to the rehearsal, between the Pastor and the bride & groom. It is best for smooth rehearsal, that all be present and on time.
3. The rehearsal ceremony and the details will be worked out by the Pastor and the bride & groom.
4. Wedding music must be in good taste in light of the sacredness of the occasion. The wedding music must be submitted to the Pastor prior to the rehearsal for their approval.
5. The Fellowship Hall or Fireside Room may be used for a rehearsal gathering before or after the wedding rehearsal. The Custodian will set up and put away the tables and chairs. The wedding party will be responsible for any decorating and all clean-up following the event. The lights are to be turned out, and all other items except chairs and tables put back where they were.
6. Smoking and/or alcohol is not permitted in the church building.
7. Inform the Pastor if he is to be present at the rehearsal dinner.

WEDDING

1. All weddings must be arranged with the Senior Pastor or Executive Pastor.
2. The bride and groom must make arrangements to complete the marriage counseling program the Pastor sets up. Failure to do so will release the Pastor of responsibility to perform the wedding.
3. The wedding ceremony will be agreed upon by the Pastor performing the wedding and the bride & groom.
4. Flash pictures cannot be taken during the ceremony by anyone. They may be taken as the bride comes down the aisle and when the bride & groom return down the aisle together. All other pictures will be taken before or after the ceremony.
5. Arrangements may be made to have members of the wedding party dress at the church, but please, NO SMOKING or alcohol anywhere in the church buildings.
6. Please advise the pastor as to whether or not there is an open invitation to the congregation to attend the wedding and if you wish it announced or placed in the church bulletin.
7. It is understood that you will be responsible to purchase the candles for the candelabra (14 in number) and candles for the Unity Candle Ceremony.
8. The Custodian will be responsible for the moving of any furniture in the church except the communion table, which should be moved by four men present at the wedding rehearsal. Minimal rearrangement will be permitted. We have two white kneeling pillows you may use for the Wedding Prayer, but if you prefer you may obtain a kneeler from the florist.
9. Arrangements for flowers, kneeler, aisle cloth (80-90 ft. long), palms, etc. are the responsibility of the bride & groom.
10. Formal weddings on Saturdays may begin no later than 4:00 p.m.
11. Neither rice nor birdseed is to be thrown on the church premises.
12. A \$40.00 deposit is required to reserve the date. (Excluding members) That money is applied to fees. If the Event is cancelled, the deposit is non-refundable. Any damage that occurs during the use of the room/facility will be assessed and it will be the responsibility of the member, non-member or organization using the room, to repair, replace and/or pay for all damages.

WEDDING RECEPTION

1. The reception may be held in the Fellowship Hall. (see schedule for cost of using the hall.)
2. The arrangements, decorating, etc. will be the responsibility of the wedding party. The Custodian will set up and put away the tables and chairs. The wedding party will be responsible for any decorating and all clean-up following the event. The lights are to be turned out, and all other items except chairs and tables put back where they were.
3. You may use the kitchen and the equipment, with the understanding that you will replace or repair anything broken or damaged. A kitchen supervisor fee may be charged.
4. **The use of any alcoholic beverages on any of the church premises or property is prohibited.** We do not permit smoking in any of the church buildings. **Alcoholic beverages** may not be used in the toast to the bride & groom. Some who you know may prefer that you not serve alcohol, but it is at your discretion if the wedding is not on the church premises.
5. **Dancing is prohibited** on church premises with the exception of a bride/groom, father/daughter, and mother/son dance.
6. If your reception is outside the church, you should advise the pastor of the following:
 - The place and time
 - If he is requested to be present
 - If you want him to offer the prayer for the food
 - If the congregation is invited or only selected people who responded to your invitation to them personally.
 - If the congregation is invited it can be placed in the bulletin accordingly.
7. All our services in counseling, performing the wedding, etc. are motivated by our deep desire to help you experience a life-long marriage relationship and to establish a Christian home in which to raise you family. We are always here to help you make this a reality.

Financial Remuneration for Weddings

Somerset Alliance Church

Fees charged to members and adherents (regular attendees) are not to be regarded as rental fees, but are for custodial service and utilities. "Active" will be considered as those who are attending 75% or more (approx. 3 Sundays a month) according to the attendance records on file in the church office. The following fees for active/non-active members and adherents were approved September 2012 and are effective as of that date.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Sound equipment is available for amplification, but an authorized sound person must be used. Please contact the church office for a list of approved sound technicians. A fee for the use of equipment applies.
2. Authorized organist for weddings in Somerset Alliance Church:

Paulette Jenkins	Pattie Stevens
Phyllis Rugg	Mary Ann Showers
3. There is no fee charged for the services of the pastor for the counseling or wedding ceremony. Non-attendees of SAC will pay \$35-\$40 for their online Pre-marriage Assessment. Fees that are collected are for the use of the church and axillary people. Traditionally an honorarium is given to the pastor for their services.
4. The center aisle length in the sanctuary is 56', not including the steps.
5. The Fellowship Hall will seat up to 300 comfortably; more than that it becomes too crowded. The Hospitality Committee does not serve catered food.
 - Please bring your own coffee (electric perk), cream and sugar.
 - All paper products, including table covers and plastic ware are to be furnished by the wedding party.
5. The following are available for receptions in the Fellowship Hall:
 - Glass candleholders suitable for table decorations
 - Bud vases (the couple must furnish candles or flowers)
 - A punch bowl
 - Salt and pepper shakers

	Active Members	Attendees/ Inactive Members	Not Attendee of Church or outside groups
Non Refundable Deposit (at time of booking)	No Deposit	\$40.00	\$40.00
Sanctuary	Donation	\$100.00	\$200.00
Custodial Fee	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Fellowship Hall	Donation	\$100.00	\$200.00
Custodial Fee	\$75.00 (Option to do own set up and clean up at no custodial fee)	\$75.00 - seating for 100 people \$25 for every 50 people after that	\$75.00 - seating for 100 people \$25 for every 50 people after that
Kitchen Supervisor	\$75.00 (up to 5 hrs. \$15/hr. after that)	\$75.00 (up to 5 hrs. \$15/hr. after that)	\$75.00 (up to 5 hrs. \$15/hr. after that)
Fireside Room & Adult Classrooms	Donation	\$35.00	\$70.00
Custodial Fee	\$75.00 (Option to do own set up and clean up at no custodial fee)	\$75.00	\$75.00
Approved Sound Equipment Operator	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Organist	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Pianist	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
Type Setting/Printing/Folding of Wedding Program	\$15.00	\$25.00	Not an Option

ALL fees are due two weeks prior to wedding date.



Checklist for Those Getting Married

- ❑ Make appropriate name changes in all insurance policies and securities. See your insurance agent and your bank.
- ❑ Advise employers of your change of status, and check to make sure the two of you have full medical benefits.
- ❑ Apply for a revised driver's license and a corrected Social Security card in the bride's new name
- ❑ Notify your voter's registration office of change of name and/or address.
- ❑ Insure all wedding gifts from time of receipt; be sure all household items are protected by insurance. Put complete, detailed list of all items in a safe place.
- ❑ Write or rewrite wills, and designate all joint ownership of bank accounts or property.
- ❑ Assemble records such as: birth and marriage certificates and keep in a safety deposit box.
- ❑ Change name on all charge accounts, credit cards, credit union accounts, bank and saving accounts.

F or Y our I nformation

Decorations Somerset Campus

- There are 14 candles in the candelabra
- The aisle cloth should be 80-90 ft. long. Our center aisle is 56 ft. long, not including the steps.
- There are 11 pews per row on each side of the center section which hold 150 people. Approx. 520 people can be seated comfortably in the main sanctuary.
- Any decorations in the sanctuary set up for a season of the year must remain in the sanctuary.
- Any questions? Ask the Church Custodian.

Other items to Consider

- Choose the photographer and florist early, especially for a wedding in June or October.
- Consider the ages of your flower girl and ring bearer. A child under five can be risky.