

MARRIAGES **at Medway Community Church**

Weddings are a joyous and exciting time for any couple. As you anticipate a life together, the Community Church rejoices with you. Because we believe that God is the architect and originator of marriage we want to be sure that he is honored in any weddings that take place in our building. The following questions and answers are designed to explain how we understand marriage and how we may be able to be a part of your wedding day. Please take time to read each one. While there may be other topics that need to be discussed, the following FAQ covers many of the basic questions a typical bride and groom have.

Q: What does your church believe about marriage?

A: We believe the Bible teaches that marriage is the joining of a man and a woman in a lifelong committed relationship. In the first book of the Bible, God established marriage; it says, *"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."* (Genesis 2.24)

Q: Do we need to be members of the church to have a wedding there?

A: We don't require membership at the Community Church, but ordinarily we expect a couple to worship with us regularly.

Q: What if one of us is, or has been, a member at the Community Church?

A: We're always glad when a member of our church family is preparing to get married. But church membership doesn't guarantee that one of our pastors will perform the wedding. Every wedding is subject to the policy that the church has established.

Q: I'm an active member of another congregation. Am I able to have my wedding at the Community Church?

A: We welcome other Christians to use our building with the understanding that there is some compelling reason for you to come our way. We will want to know what that reason is before making a final determination. One of our pastors may want to consult with your pastor concerning your request.

Q: Is it possible for another pastor to participate in our wedding? Does a pastor from the Community Church need to be a part of every wedding?

A: Other Christian pastors are welcome to participate. In some cases we do allow other pastors to officiate at weddings, but with the approval of our pastor. It is not always necessary for one of our pastors to participate.

Q: What is a wedding at the Community Church like?

A: First of all, it is a Christian worship service conducted in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; this includes prayer, the reading of appropriate Bible passages, a meditation on God's Word, and the exchange of solemn wedding vows. Second, the pastor will assist you in planning the service to make it meaningful and personal for you.

Q: What about music for the wedding?

A: Our Director of Music Ministries may be available, or you can bring musicians of your own. If outside musicians will be using church instruments, they must contact the Director of Music Ministries first. Generally speaking, the type of music should be the kind that would be used in a typical church worship service.

Q: I'm a Christian but my fiancée is not. Can we be married at the Community Church?

A: The Bible clearly says that a professing Christian cannot marry someone who doesn't believe in Jesus. Since we believe in the truth and authority of the Bible, and seek to do what it teaches, the pastor would not be able to perform the wedding.

Q: One or both of us are divorced. Is this a problem?

A: Since there are a variety of factors at work in each individual case you will need to discuss those with the pastor. After talking with you, he will be able to determine if he can perform the wedding.

Q: We have some unique circumstances not mentioned so far. What should we do?

A: The pastor will be glad to discuss these with you. He may seek the advice of the elders of the Community Church before making a final decision.

Q: Will we need to meet with the pastor before the wedding?

A: Yes – usually five 60-90 minute sessions (give or take) are needed. During those times the typical topics are getting to know one another, questions and issues in relationships and marriage, and planning the ceremony. These meetings usually take place during the 6 months before the wedding. They are scheduled at times mutually convenient for you and the pastor.

Q: We need to set the date soon. When can I know that I can have a particular day and time?

A: The date can be finalized once the pastor has determined that he is able in good conscience to perform the wedding.

(Unanimously approved by Board of Elders, 2/2011)

Conditions of Facility Use:

- The church furniture in the sanctuary may only be moved under the supervision of the custodian or other staff members. The wedding party is responsible for returning the furniture to the original location after the wedding.
- No tape is to be placed on any walls or furniture anywhere in the facility.
- No nails, tacks, staples, pins, adhesives, or anything that will mark woodwork or furniture.
- All flowers and decorations should be removed by the wedding party immediately following the ceremony.
- No smoking or alcoholic beverages allowed in the church building or on the grounds.
- If candles are used, please use drippless.

