

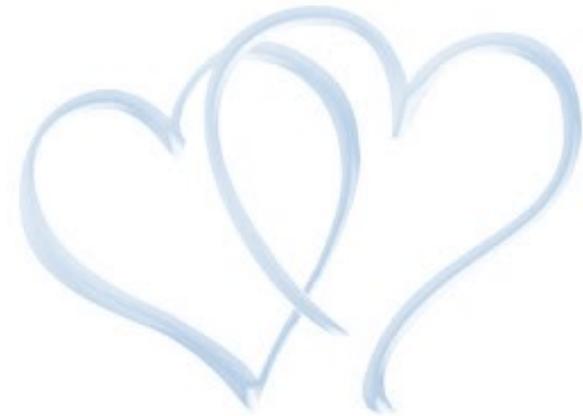
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Village Church of Barrington

Wedding Guide



"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

Guidelines for Couples Living Together

We believe that deciding to get married is one of the most important decisions you will ever make.

A wedding is a worship service for God. The Bible tells us that the marriage relationship is a picture of the kind of love and intimacy God cherishes with His bride (the church). The marriage relationship has incredible potential for great joy and satisfaction if practiced biblically.

Likewise, it has great potential for pain and sorrow if it is neglected or abused. Our desire is to walk alongside you and your beloved as you prepare for your wedding day and beyond.

Inside this booklet are the policies and procedures of Village Church of Barrington. The information in this booklet will help you in preparing for your marriage ceremony.

You will be asked to separate based on biblical standards for sexual purity. If you and your fiancé are in agreement and want to honor God with your relationship by complying with this request, your request for marriage at the church will be considered. Final approval must be given by the pastor and elders.

What God's Word says about purity:

1 Corinthians 6:15-20

“Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take away the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you have been bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”

1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

“For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no man transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore, whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives His Holy Spirit to you.”

Guidelines for Divorce and Remarriage

As stated earlier, each remarriage request will be considered individually by the elders and pastor.

Here are some biblical guidelines that will be applied:

- If your spouse has died, you are free to remarry.
- God's intention for marriage is that it be a lifetime commitment. If you were divorced and your divorced spouse is still living and unmarried, we will discuss reconciliation and may require contact with the ex-spouse.
- If there is no possibility of reconciliation, we will try to address what went wrong with the first marriage before we give permission for another.
- If you were an unbeliever before you got a divorce and if your ex-spouse has remarried, you can consider remarriage here.
- If you were a believer and your spouse was an unbeliever, you can consider remarriage here.

To the Bridal Couple

"We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm, and secure."

- Hebrews 6:19

We are pleased you have chosen to be married at Village Church of Barrington. Whether your plans are for a large or small wedding, elegant or simple, public or private, we will do our best to make this occasion memorable.

The rules of wedding etiquette are nothing more than guidelines to tasteful, courteous, and considerate behavior. Certain customs are lovely traditions but not "must haves." Rest assured that your service can be tailored to suit you and your families, so that the ceremony will be meaningful to you and your guests.

Sadly, the joy of this special day can be clouded by the pressure that comes with making sure everything is "perfect." The "perfect" day is one when God is glorified by a union of two people who love Him. Because of this fact, we encourage you to keep your eyes affixed on Him. Keep your heart affixed on each other. And, keep your mind on the details that matter to you.

We look forward to helping you keep proper focus and iron out all of the details.

Please spend time reading this booklet. We will include some helpful items that might not be found in bridal magazines and details that are pertinent to the actual happenings at the church before, during, and after the ceremony.



Frequently Asked Wedding Questions

Can we be married at Village Church of Barrington?

Here at Village Church of Barrington, we desire to minister to couples who plan to get married. Because our focus is on ministry, we do not rent the facility to family, friends, or other outside parties that are not regular attendees of Village Church of Barrington.

All members and regular attendees* of Village Church of Barrington are invited to be married here. All of our pastors are available to perform wedding ceremonies.

**For the purposes of our marriage policy, regular attendees are people who have attended Village Church of Barrington for at least one year and attend worship weekly.*

Are there any exceptions?

Yes, as follows:

- Other EFCA affiliated churches that do not have adequate facilities may request the use of our building. Those requests must come from the pastor who will be presiding over the ceremony. *(Please note: The couple must comply with the same standards required by VCB outlined in this guide.)*
- College students or recent grads who were regular attendees prior to college are also welcome to be married at Village Church of Barrington.

Do we both need to be Christians?

The Bible clearly teaches in 2 Corinthians 6:14 that Christians are not to marry unbelievers. For this reason Village Church of Barrington pastors are unable biblically to officiate the wedding of a couple who do not share a mutual commitment to Christ. It is our desire to do everything possible to help you clarify or discover your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Do we need premarital counseling?

Because we believe preparing for marriage is one of the most important things a couple will ever do, we require all those being married at Village Church by a member of the pastoral staff to complete pre-marital

Important General Guidelines

There are various options concerning who should be in the receiving line. The minimum number of participants should be the parents and the bridal couple. You may want to include the best man and maid/matron of honor. Other bridesmaids may be placed at the side near the guest book and the ushers will be providing help to guests, including instructions to the reception.

The most common arrangement is:

Bride and Groom	
Bride's Father	Maid of Honor
Groom's Mother	Best Man
Groom's Father	Guest Book
Bride's Mother	Bridesmaids

Bridal Registry

Many stores provide a gift listing service for you. Plan to utilize this help as a convenience for your guests. This allows them to discover your choice of décor and colors, and gives them a better opportunity of choosing something you will enjoy receiving.

Car Arrangements

Have in mind which wedding members and family members will ride in which car and who the driver will be. This will prevent inconvenience and embarrassing oversights.

Home Security

Both families should have "home" sitters during the rehearsal evening and the day of the wedding. You are also providing a source of information to "lost" guests or other needs that may arise at those times.

Smoking and Use of Alcoholic Beverages

Smoking is not permitted in any of our facilities. The no-smoking regulation is part of our fire code and also an expression of respect for God, our church building, and those who cannot tolerate smoke for health reasons. Use of alcoholic beverages is not permitted on the church grounds. It is understood that the wedding party will conduct

Nourishment for Bridal Party

Encourage everyone to eat before coming to the church. It's a long time before you will be eating at your reception. You might like to provide some snack food like crackers, cheese, or fruit, particularly if you will be dressing at the church. Clean-up is the responsibility of the bridal party. The bride should select a family member or friend for this task.

Time

The time to arrive at the church for everyone depends on the time needed for dressing and for photos.

Gifts

Occasionally gifts are brought to the church for you. Please assign a friend or relative to provide for their care before and after the service and make arrangements for them to be taken to the reception. Have tape to secure cards to packages to prevent them from being lost in transit.

Guest Book Attendant

If you plan to have a guest book, ask a friend or relative to be in charge of it for you. Have it available in the foyer 30 minutes prior to your service and at the end of the receiving line. Supply extra pens and have these items at rehearsal. Most guest books have an abundance of spaces for names and you might want to have the guests include their addresses. Put a notation on each page for that direction.

Use of Rice, Birdseed, Confetti, Rose Petals, and Balloons

It is requested that these items not be thrown or released on the church grounds. We suggest the use of bubbles (may stain clothing) outside. Live rose petals may not be thrown in the worship center as they can potentially stain the carpet.

Receiving Line

The receiving line is a tradition allowing all of your guests to extend their good wishes. You may choose to have the receiving line in the foyer following the ceremony or at the reception.

counseling. The pastoral staff reserves the privilege of fully committing their participation in the ceremony until all counseling is completed. For those living outside the immediate area, counseling can be arranged to accommodate your schedule. For those who will be married by a non-staff pastor, arrangements should be made with the officiating minister.

Does the church perform 2nd marriages?

Requests for second marriages will be considered on an individual basis by the pastor and elder board. Each second marriage situation is unique and needs the personal attention of a pastor. All decisions regarding second marriages are determined in the light of God's Word and in respect to your own personal development. (See page 14—*Guidelines for Divorce and Re-marriage.*)

My fiancé and I are living together. Can we still be married at the church?

You will be asked to separate based on biblical standards for sexual purity. If you and your fiancé are in agreement and want to honor God with your relationship by complying with this request, your request for marriage at the church will be considered. (See page 15—*Guidelines for Couples Living Together.*)

How do we go about setting the date?

We recommend that you start this process at least six months in advance of your desired wedding date. The first step is to fill out the wedding request form found on the VCB website. After it is received, the administrator will bring the request before staff leadership for approval. Afterward, the couple will be notified about the decision. (Please note: *Final approval for the wedding is dependent on the pre-marital counselor's approval or the pastor's consent at the end of the pre-marital counseling sessions.*)

The date will be reserved on the church calendar after payment of the wedding fee. Payment can be made online or by check made payable to the Village Church of Barrington.

Frequently Asked Wedding Questions

Next, you will be contacted to schedule an appointment to begin pre-marital counseling. You will want to make sure that the sessions can be scheduled well in advance of your wedding.

Does the church provide a Wedding Liaison?

After your initial pre-marital counseling session, you may begin making arrangements for all the many details that make a wedding so special. VCB has a wedding liaison available to serve you. This person will assist you in these details and coordinate your interaction with the other personnel of the church who will be assisting with your wedding.

The liaison will be able to familiarize you with the facilities and scheduling. She will meet with you and your fiancé to discuss your plans, help you with scheduling, provide you with suggestions, and be present at the rehearsal and wedding to oversee that your plans are carried out.

The current wedding liaison is Liza DeSouza. She can be reached at elizabeth_desouza@yahoo.com and/or (847) 873-9946.

What dates and times can a wedding be scheduled?

In order to allow you to make your day as special as it can be, only one wedding will be scheduled on a weekend.

All weddings and associated activities must be completed by 10 pm except on Saturdays when they must be completed by 4 pm. No weddings will be scheduled during a weekend church service or on Easter weekend, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, or New Year's Day.

When should the rehearsal be held?

The rehearsal is a time of careful preparation for the wedding service. The date should be held at a time when all members of the wedding party can be present. Normally, the rehearsal takes place on Friday before the wedding. Please include the parents. Set this date with the pastor and administrator to avoid conflicts. Plan on the rehearsal taking 1-1/2 hours.

Important General Guidelines

She can anticipate the flow of people performing to help facilitate a smooth ceremony.

License Information

Village Church of Barrington is located in Lake County, so you both need to apply for a wedding license at the county building in Waukegan. Call 847.360.6568 for information. You will need to bring the license with you to the rehearsal.

Wedding Clothing

In choosing wedding attire, please select a style that is respectful and appropriate.

It is suggested your attendants wear their wedding shoes during the rehearsal, and they might like to practice in a long skirt, if their attendant dresses are long. They are likely to feel more comfortable when they walk down the aisle for the wedding service.

Have the fathers and men try on their complete rental outfit the night before to allow time for any exchanges.

It is essential to try on your wedding veil and headpiece at home several different times. Try various ways of fastening it to your hair so that it will stay firm during the hugs you will receive by well-wishers. Since the headpiece will be very different from anything you normally wear, this practice time will put you at ease.

Please stipulate to the attendants and the mothers that we are not equipped for the security of valuables before or during the wedding. It is recommended that all valuables be taken to their cars where they can be locked.

Should you and your attendants choose to change clothing at the church, wear items that can easily be put into shopping bags. Have all your belongings packed and put into your cars **before** the service. This will expedite your leaving for the reception.

Important General Guidelines

Flowers

Flowers add the festive touch to this happy occasion. Have your decorations enhance rather than detract from the loveliness of the worship center and your bridal party. You may wish to consider the use of potted plants or greens that can be used in your new home. All flowers and decorations are to be removed after the service.

Florists

Choose your florist early. Be sure to inform them that any pew end decorations must be fastened with rubber bands or ties. No taping is to be used. It will be necessary to know what time the florist will arrive so that someone is on the premises and a door is unlocked for him/her.

You might also want to have a unity candle setting. This can be arranged by the florist or by the wedding liaison.

Consider having some of your floral arrangements used at the reception. Request a friend or relative to be responsible for their transportation following the ceremony.

The opening by the cross at the front of the worship center is approximately 68" wide and 12 ½' high. The shelf is 11" deep.

Be sure to have the florist pin names on each corsage and boutonniere so they may easily and quickly be given to the proper person. Instruct all people who will have flowers to get them in the worship center lobby.

Length of Aisle - approximately 65' (75' runner)

Number of pew ends - 19 on each side of the center aisle

Seating capacity in worship center - 366

Programs

Some families choose to have printed programs for their guests. Folders and printing are usually available at Christian bookstores, stationery stores, and printing shops.

Arrange to have the wedding liaison check the copy before it is printed.

Frequently Asked Wedding Questions

What facilities are available for the ceremony/reception?

Wedding Facilities

- The Worship Center will seat up to 400 guests.

Wedding Fees

Village Church of Barrington makes no profit from the weddings of its members or regular attenders. The fee simply covers the essential costs of hosting the wedding and are for the personnel that will be working to provide you a wonderful ceremony. It covers the wedding liaison, sound technician, set-up/tear-down, and cleaning. See table below for details. Additional set-up requirements will be an additional \$25 per hour.

	Members/Regular Attendees of Village Church or a Daughter Church	Other EFCA Church Members
Worship Center Use for Wedding and Rehearsal	FREE	\$250
Support Personnel	\$500	\$500
Total Fee	\$500	\$750
Fee Includes:		Does Not Include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of Worship Center for rehearsal and wedding • Custodial support for rehearsal dinner and wedding • Sound Technician • Wedding Liaison • Overhead 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officiating Pastor's honorarium • Honorarium for musicians

At the time the full payment of the wedding fee is paid, you can schedule your wedding on the church calendar by completing a calendar request form. Payment can be made online or by check made payable to "Village Church of Barrington" and mailed to the Office Manager at the church.

Important General Guidelines

Honorariums & Fees

An honorarium for the officiating pastor and costs for the musicians are not covered in the fees and is your personal responsibility. Be sure to have all checks made out prior to your rehearsal. The wedding liaison will be glad to assist in distributing them for you. The best man could give the pastor's honorarium to him for you.

Suggested honorarium for the officiating pastor is \$200.00. Acceptable suggested honorarium and/or fee for musicians (soloist, organist and/or other musicians) is typically \$150.00 for each person.

Reception Facilities

Only members and regular attendees may have receptions at Village Church of Barrington.

Reception Fees

This reception fee covers the use of the room, chairs and tables. It also includes set-up and clean-up services. See table below for details.

Room	Fee
Room 300 (accommodates 200 people with serving tables)	\$350
Gymnasium (accommodates 350 people)	\$400

Music

Music adds to the beauty of the wedding ceremony and provides a background and friendly atmosphere while your guests are being seated.

Since music is an expression of the sacred nature of the wedding ceremony, the music should contribute to the spirit of worship. All music must be approved by the pastoral staff.

Organist/Pianists

We have church organists and pianists who may be available to play at your wedding. You should make plans directly with them or someone

Important General Guidelines

else of your choosing who is approved by the Worship Pastor. We encourage you to allow them ample opportunity to prepare and rehearse music that is appropriate for the occasion and the setting. You may choose other instruments such as violin, guitar, harp, flute, etc.

Soloists/Special Music

You may wish to include extra music before or during your ceremony. These may be people of your choice. If you would like, suggestions of some singers from our church can be given to you by the wedding liaison. Plan ahead to confirm the dates with the people you choose. We highly recommend that you arrange times for them to practice prior to your rehearsal.

Photographer/Video

You will probably want to have pictures taken of your special day! In keeping with the sacred nature of the ceremony, no flash photography is permitted while the ceremony is in progress. Please advise your photographer and family. Your photographer may take silent time exposures from the back. The photographer is not to be in the aisles disrupting the view for the guests. This will preserve the sacredness of your service.

If the wedding ceremony is to be videotaped, equipment is normally located in an unobtrusive position. Any other placement of equipment must be cleared with the wedding liaison.

Plan for your photographer to take some of the pictures of the wedding party and parents prior to the wedding. Careful planning will prevent your guests from waiting too long after the service for your picture taking time.

We suggest you write a list of desired photos to be taken at the church and of groupings of friends and relatives at the reception. You and your families will be too busy to take time to gather people together. A list in hand will greatly help the photographer do a better job for you.