



WALDEN

COMMUNITY CHURCH

12400 Walden Road, Montgomery, TX 77356, 936-582-6696 - waldenchurch.com

This is an exciting time in your life and we share your anticipation of this new adventure. God has designed marriage to be one of the richest and deepest human relationships. Marriage is, in essence, a human institution of God's love for us and it involves much more than a ceremony. It involves a lifetime commitment and as you look forward to joining your lives together in these sacred bonds, we want to assist you in every way possible to build your marriage on the right foundation and establish a Christian home.

FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

You are about to enter into one of the most intimate relationships of life which is both a beautiful experience and a very awesome responsibility. Marriage is more than a contract to live together. It is a sacred relationship based on the marvelous foundation of God's love in which you can build a mutually satisfying and deeply enriching marriage. God's foundations for Christian marriage are found in the Holy Scriptures.

- **Marriage is designed by God.** God said, *"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a companion who will help him."* (Genesis 2: 18) God has carefully created us to complement each other. A complement is someone who completes or makes perfect. God designed a woman to be the completion of a man, and the man to be the completion of a woman. God made us fit together in a mutually beneficial way.
- **Marriage is permanent.** God said, *"A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife."* (Genesis 2: 24) The Hebrew word joined means to be bonded together in such a way that the relationship is secure and permanent. To be *joined* means to be totally committed to the marriage relationship so that no hardship, difficulty or problem can separate the two.
- **Marriage is unity.** God said, *"...and the two are united into one."* (Genesis 2: 24) The word *joined* also carries the meaning "to be united together with, in spirit." It is a life-long process. It is a deliberate effort of two persons bringing all of their differences, backgrounds, personalities, feelings, interests, and expectations into a relationship that will be built, but over the years.
- **Marriage is intimacy.** Scripture records, *"Now, although Adam and his wife were both naked, neither of them felt any shame."* (Genesis 2:25) This is a mystery, according to God's Word, but one that reflects the totality of the marriage union and its uniqueness. Physical union makes marriage distinct from any other relationship, even the closest of relationships. Marriage is basically a human illustration of God's love for us. Adam could not totally comprehend God's love for him when God created Eve, and he said: *"She is part of my own flesh and bone! She will be called woman, because she was taken out of a man."* (Genesis 2: 23)

Our desire is for each couple to experience marriage in every way that God intended and to understand everything God requires for that to be a reality. When both partners have experienced God's love and forgiveness in their own lives, there is the possibility for marriage that brings the fulfillment that God designed. Consequently, our preparation for marriage includes a discussion of God's plan for marriage and an examination of your own relationship to God as well as to each other. Our desire is to help you understand how to enter into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and how that relationship is the essential ingredient to a "Christian marriage" that fulfills God's will.

PREPARATION FOR THE WEDDING

Please read this wedding policy in full; and please note any questions you may have.

1. Complete the Wedding Application Form, have both persons sign the form at the bottom, and return it to the Church Office with a \$200.00 non-refundable deposit payable to WALDEN COMMUNITY CHURCH. Balance of fees is due one month before the wedding date. _____ (initial)
2. It is strongly recommended by Walden Community that an engaged couple participate in premarital counseling either by one of our staff members or another person of your choosing. This is of course optional at an additional cost, but still highly recommended.
3. Please complete all materials promptly and return materials to the church office, so that an initial appointment with the officiating pastor or wedding coordinator may be scheduled.
4. If a guest officiant is being used, they must be an ordained minister.

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING

Walden Community Church has developed these guidelines for wedding ceremonies based upon basic congregational convictions and biblical principles.

1. You must have fulfilled all the lawful requirements established by the State of Texas for marriage, including the obtaining of a marriage license.
2. Both bride and groom must give clear testimony of being born-again believers, who personally trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins and for eternal life.
3. Because a Christian marriage ceremony is a service of worship to God conducted within the house of God, reverence is expected on the part of all who attend. The service will be under the direction of the officiating pastor and the wedding coordinator.
4. Music that accompanies the ceremony should direct attention to God. Special care should be taken to ensure that it is suitable.

STAFFING

5. The church will provide: a wedding coordinator, a sound technician and a custodian for all weddings.
6. The church may also provide an officiating pastor, guest pastor, worship leader, media technician, or soloists as needed from our staff with additional fees incurred.

SERVICE PLANNING

7. Weddings will not be scheduled on Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Thanksgiving or Fourth of July. Dates will be selected in coordination with our church calendar. Walden Community Church has the right to deny dates should they conflict with our worship services, special events, and the schedules of our staff. If your wedding is scheduled during a season when the church is decorated, you should expect to use the decorations in your own decorating theme. Although these decorations will need to remain in place as they are, you may add to them, if you desire.
8. The bride and groom may arrange various elements of the wedding ceremony in consultation with the officiating pastor and coordinator. Please provide a final order of service one month prior to ceremony. Please no major changes after that time.
9. The florist selected will be responsible for decorating and removing decorations without interfering with other scheduled activities. Floral arrangements must not drip water on carpets or woodwork. Delivery of flowers to the church must be arranged ahead of time, but no earlier than 4 hours prior to ceremony. _____ (initial)
10. A rehearsal is necessary and will be scheduled at a time agreed upon by you and the church office. It is vital that all who will participate be present at the rehearsal. At that time the marriage license is to be given to the wedding coordinator. Rehearsal will last no longer than 1 hour. _____ (initial)
11. The church will hold any personal property accidentally left behind for 2 weeks. _____ (initial)

BUILDING USAGE

12. Sanctuary will seat 150 people; Family Life Center seats 80 people for dining/ 100 for cake reception.
13. Candles and all decorations must be approved by the wedding coordinator and may not permanently change, alter or damage current fixtures or carpets.
14. Aside from bottled water, no food or drink is allowed in our buildings _____ (initial)
15. Smoking and the consumption of alcoholic beverages or the use of drugs are not permissible on the church property. Please inform your wedding party guests of this policy. _____ (initial)
16. Please, no rice, birdseed, organic flower petals (silk flower petals are permissible but must be picked up by someone in the wedding party), sparklers etc. may be thrown in or about the church property due to safety and health hazards.
17. The bride and groom are responsible for hiring a photographer of their choosing. It is recommended that the photographer check in with the wedding coordinator on the day of the wedding and direct any questions to her. Taking of pictures and videotaping during the ceremony is permissible, but should not detract from the ceremony. Please no flash photography during the service. Please no photographers on the stage or in the center isle during the service.
18. The church facilities will be made available on the date of your wedding 2 hours before the time of the ceremony. Time allowed for preparation and a wedding at Walden Community is 4 hours, maximum. For a wedding and reception on premises, the time allowed is 7 hours, maximum. Wedding ceremonies may not continue past 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays. _____ (initial)

19. For receptions that wish to include dancing; it is required that a dance floor be provided and then all dancing must be restricted to the dance floor.
20. It is understood by the undersigned that if either your service or your rehearsal runs long an additional cost will be added to your total to compensate our personnel.
21. Signature at the bottom of this policy implies full understanding and compliance.

The following Hold Harmless Agreement shall be agreed to by signature of the Permittee.

In connection with the granted use of your facilities and premises at Walden Community Church, I, _____ hereinafter referred to as the Permittee, do agree to defend, indemnify and hold harmless Walden Community Church, hereinafter referred to as the Church, its members and employees, individually and collectively, from and against all costs, losses, claims, demands, suits, actions, payments and judgments, including legal and attorney fees arising from personal or bodily injuries, including death, or property damage or otherwise, however caused, sustained by any person(s), firm(s), corporation(s), including the Church, brought or recovered against any of the undersigned's use/occupancy of church's facilities, furniture or equipment or other use as requested by the Permittee, or from any occurrence in or on the demised premises, and will further indemnify and hold the Church harmless against and from any and all claims arising from any breach or default on the part of the Permittee in the performance of any covenant or agreement on the part of the Permittee to be performed pursuant to the terms of this use, or arising from any act or negligence of the Permittee, or any of its agents, contractors, servants, employees, licensees, customers, or invitees.

In the case any action or proceeding is brought against the Church by reason of such claim, the Permittee, upon notice from the Church, covenants to resist or defend at Permittee expense such action or proceeding by counsel reasonably satisfactory to the Church. The Permittee further agrees to retain responsibility for any loss, theft or damage to Permittee's equipment, supplies or materials or equipment, supplies or materials of others brought onto or stored on Church's premises in connection with Permittee's use of Church's facilities and premises.

The Permittee further agrees to surrender the premises and facilities to the Church at termination of the use period hereinbefore specified in the same condition as at the commencement of the period. The Permittee shall not remove any church property. All equipment, supplies and materials of any kind, supplied and used by the Permittee, shall be removed from the premises at termination of the use period. The Permittee shall be responsible for any damage to Church property, arising from Permittee's

_____ signature of Permittee

_____ signature of witness

_____ date