



# Christ Presbyterian Church Wedding Policy & Procedure

Approved by the Session 8/20/2015

Marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman and between the participants and God (Malachi 2:14-16). It is therefore more than a temporary agreement of convenience, a contract, or a well-intentioned promise. As a binding relationship established by promises, the marriage covenant is solemnly sealed by a ceremony witnessed by family and friends.\*

Christ Presbyterian Church is a part of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) and adheres to the EPC's Constitution (Book of Order and the Westminster Confession of Faith). To find out more about our beliefs about marriage check out the EPC's "The Sanctity of Marriage" position paper.

1. Please contact the pastor first for an initial meeting. Upon the pastor's recommendation the Elders must approve the use of church facilities. Please refer to the Church Property and Facility Use Policy and Church Facility Reservation Request. All weddings will adhere to this policy and the EPC's constitution.
2. Pre-marital counseling sessions are required with the pastor or approved designee. These sessions are not just to make plans for your wedding ceremony, but more so to prayerfully discuss issues regarding your life together as a couple and prepare you for a lifelong marriage.
3. If at any time the pastor believes s/he cannot in good conscience preside over your wedding service or the marriage/wedding does not adhere to the constitution of the EPC, s/he reserves the right to cancel the ceremony. If at any time the Session believes the marriage/wedding does not adhere to the constitution of the EPC, they reserve the right to cancel the use CPC's facility.
4. Since the wedding ceremony is a worship service, the pastor retains control over the ceremony. During pre-marital counseling sessions the pastor will discuss and agree upon order and elements of the wedding ceremony.
5. If you would like to use a pastor or minister other than the pastor of CPC in the wedding ceremony, you will need approval from the Session in advance. The visiting pastor must indicate their agreement with the "Essentials of Faith" of the EPC by signing and submitting to Session a copy of the document.
6. If a musician or singer will be a part of the ceremony; it shall ordinarily be CPC's music director. A substitute musician may play only upon the approval of the pastor and the music director.

## Fees/Costs

<b>Facility/Personnel</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Non-Members</b>
Building	\$0	\$250
Pastor	Free Will Gift	Free Will Gift
Music Director	\$150	\$150

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\* "The Sanctity of Marriage;" the official Position Paper of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.