

Crossroads Presbyterian Church

A GREAT BEGINNING: THE JOURNEY OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

May God bless you as you begin this journey of Christian Marriage! This brochure will give you the information you need to prepare for a Christian Marriage Service at Crossroads Presbyterian Church. Please feel free to ask the pastor(s) any questions concerning the use of the building, pre-marital counseling or the marriage service.

What is Christian Marriage? Marriage is a gift God has given to humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage is also a civil union or contract between a man and a woman. For Christians, marriage is a covenant through which a man and a woman are called to live out together before God their lives of discipleship. Technically, the Presbyterian Church (USA) does not participate in "weddings", even though we may still call them a wedding. Rather, we design worship services that celebrate God's Gift of Christian Marriage. In a service of Christian Marriage, a woman and a man make a life-long commitment to each other before Our Heavenly Father. This covenant is publicly witnessed and acknowledged by the community of faith.

The pastors of Crossroads Presbyterian Church are joyfully prepared to perform Christian Marriage Services. Also, we may prepare and lead worship services that recognize an earlier civil marriage union. In addition, we may prepare and lead worship services that reaffirm marriage vows. Every ceremony we provide is, at heart, a worship service.

Statement on The Gift of Marriage A statement similar to the one below is read by the minister(s) near the beginning of every Christian Marriage Service. From the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*:

"We gather in the presence of God to give thanks for the gift of marriage, to witness the joining together of (Groom) and (Bride), to surround them with our prayers, and to ask God's blessing upon them, so that they may be strengthened for their life together and nurtured in their love for God.

God created us male and female, and gave us marriage so that husband and wife may help and comfort each other, living faithfully together in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health, throughout all their days.

God gave us marriage for the full expression of the love between a man and a woman. In marriage a woman and a man belong to each other, and with affection and tenderness freely give themselves to each other.

God gave us marriage for the well being of human society, for the ordering of family life, and for the birth and nurture of children.

God gave us marriage as a holy mystery in which a man and a woman are joined together, and become one, just as Christ is one with the church. In marriage, husband and wife are called to a new way of life, created, ordered, and blessed by God."

Officiating Minister The pastors of Crossroads Presbyterian Church are responsible for leading all worship services of the congregation including weddings. One of our pastors will be glad to help you plan a service that is meaningful and that reflects the Christian faith we share. If you wish to have a minister from another

church assist in the service, a minister from Crossroads must participate in the service as appropriate. Every order of service must be approved by a minister from CPC and be consistent with our beliefs and traditions.

Scheduling You should schedule with the Pastor and church office a date and time for the wedding and the rehearsal. The officiating pastor will then schedule the pre-marital counseling.

Our Facility The sanctuary and Fireside Lounge are available for wedding services. The sanctuary offers a larger space (seats 650) with organ or piano accompaniment as well as technical sound and video support. The Fireside Lounge provides a more intimate setting (seats 55) furnished with a piano and gas fireplace.

Music As the wedding service is a worship service, care must be taken to choose music that is in character with Christian worship. The music should focus on God rather than on romantic love or sentimentality and enhances joy, reverence and dignity. Whenever music is used, it is an integral part of our worship of God. As such, the music chosen should serve to glorify God and express our faith. The Crossroads Worship Ministers can assist you in selecting appropriate music including hymns and vocal and instrumental music.

Worship Readers/Leaders We encourage lay readers and leaders in worship. The officiating minister must approve all readers and leaders. All readers will be asked to participate in the rehearsal. The officiating pastor must approve all materials read in the service. Readers and leaders are strongly encouraged to be well prepared!

Ushers We recommend that there be one usher for every 50 guests at the wedding. It is recommended that one usher know the bride's family well and one know the groom's family well. Ushers should be age 15 or older.

Flowers and Photography Any floral arrangements or decorations should reflect the integrity and simplicity of the Christian life. The family is responsible for the removal of all flowers, decoration and pictorial displays at the conclusion of the service.

All photography and recording arrangements should be planned with the atmosphere of worship in mind. Because this is a worship service, no photos should be taken during this time. The Crossroads Photography and Videography Policy is attached.

Wedding Coordinator As you prepare for your wedding, our wedding coordinator is available to answer your questions regarding the ceremony and will be available to assist at the rehearsal and on your wedding day.

Sound Technician Our sound technician will make a basic CD recording of the wedding ceremony.

License The couple is responsible for completing all state requirements for a legal marriage. The license should be brought to the church at the rehearsal.

Receptions The Christian Life Center offers a special venue to hold your wedding reception. With seating capacity up to 400 guests, you are invited to consider if the CLC meets your needs. The Crossroads Hospitality Coordinator will work with you to plan a memorable celebration of your wedding day.

Note: Crossroads Presbyterian Church policy prohibits the use of alcohol, tobacco or any type of drugs on our church grounds. All costs associated with your wedding reception are the responsibility of the family.

Contact Persons

Jennifer Rusk, Exec. Admin. Assistant to the Pastors, jennifer.rusk@crossroadspres.org

Rev. Dr. Tim Harrison, Lead Pastor, tim.harrison@crossroadspres.org

Pam Thiede, Wedding Coordinator, pjthiede@hotmail.com

Todd & Jenee O’Connor, Worship Ministers, oconnor@crossroadspres.org

Dave Sass, Hospitality Coordinator, dave.sass@crossroadspres.org

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Pre-marital Counseling Pre-marital counseling is one of the best tool couples have to prepare for a fulfilling and successful marriage. The goal of this time is to help couples understand themselves and one another as they begin a lifelong covenant relationship. The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) requires pre-marital counseling for every couple seeking a Christian Marriage Service. In most cases, the minister(s) performing the service will provide this counseling. In some circumstances, the minister and couple may agree to another outside counseling arrangement. In all cases, the counseling must be completed 45 days before the scheduled marriage service. The minister performing the marriage service will need to be in contact with the person providing the counseling.

The following topics are important areas to be prayerfully discussed in the process of pre-marital counseling. They include: family history, personal faith expression and experiences, personality traits, finances, intimacy, career goals, family traditions, and other areas that may arise in the counseling process.

There may be times when the minister is convinced, after discussion with the couple, that commitment, responsibility, maturity or Christian understanding are so lacking that the marriage is unwise. The minister may decide not to officiate the marriage service. The minister may continue to provide counsel to a couple in an effort to further prepare them for Christian Marriage.

Most couples will meet with the minister for four sessions. Most sessions range from sixty to ninety minutes. In addition, the pastor may ask the couple to read a book and discuss it together. In addition to pre-marital counseling, the couple will meet with the pastor to discuss and design the Christian Marriage Service.

Agreement for Counseling

I agree to faithfully participate in the process of pre-marital counseling. I promise, to the best of my ability, to honestly express my thoughts, feelings, beliefs and experiences. I promise to read and reflect upon materials recommended during the counseling process. I expect honest and caring feedback from the minister(s) guiding this counseling process. I also understand that the minister(s) performing the counseling may determine that marriage at this time is unwise and will not participate in the marriage service.

Bride_____Date:_____ Groom_____Date:_____

Crossroads Presbyterian Church
THE CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE SERVICE

The following is an outline of a Christian Marriage Service:

Entrance/Processional

Sentences of Scripture

Statement on the Gift of Marriage

Prayer

Declarations of Intent

Affirmations of the Families

Affirmations of the Congregation

[Psalm, Hymn, or Spiritual] *Optional*

Readings from Scripture

Sermon

[Psalm, Hymn, or Spiritual] *Optional*

Vows

Exchange of Rings (and other Symbols like Candles, etc.)

Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Announcement of Marriage

Charge and Blessing

[Psalm, Hymn, Spiritual, or Anthem] *Optional*

Recessional

The minister must approve all parts and components of the marriage service and any bulletin or program to be used during the marriage service.

Crossroads Presbyterian Church
WEDDING FORM

Date of Wedding _____ Time of Wedding _____
Date of Rehearsal _____ Time of Rehearsal _____

Bride's **FULL** name: _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____
Home phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell _____
Current Church Membership _____
Current Minister's Name _____

Groom's **FULL** name: _____ Date of Birth _____
Address _____
Home phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell _____
Current Church Membership _____
Current Minister's Name _____

Officiating Minister at wedding _____
Address _____

Bride's Attendants (Maid/Matron of honor first, rest in order of procession)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Groom's Attendants (Best Man first, rest in order of procession)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Flower Girl _____ Ring Bearer _____

(The pastor must approve any children less than 5 years of age participating in the Marriage Service)

Unity Candle (Y/N) _____

Candle Lighter(s) _____

Organist _____

Singer(s) _____

Other Worship Leaders _____

Ushers _____

Parents:

Bride's mother _____

Bride's father _____

Other Parents (if any) _____

Bride's Grandparents _____

Groom's mother _____

Groom's father _____

Other Parents (if any) _____

Groom's Grandparents _____

Will there be a reception at the church? (Y/N) _____

Any special agreements for this wedding _____

Any handicap or disability needs: _____

Crossroads Presbyterian Church
HONORARIUMS, FEES AND POLICIES

The Crossroads family of faith is honored and privileged to host your service of Christian marriage. Our desire is to provide professional support as you celebrate your new life together as husband and wife. Crossroads requires a deposit of \$150.00 (see “facility use” below) in order to reserve your wedding date. The deposit is due after you determine the date of your wedding with the officiating pastor and is fully refundable. If the fees are a hardship for the couple, please talk to the pastor. The pastor may waive fees in the appropriate circumstances. All fees (except the facility use fee) are to be **paid on or before the rehearsal day**. To assist in your planning, a ceremony fee checklist follows:

Pastor to counsel, plan and preside over wedding.
(Make check payable to: **Officiating pastor**) \$ 300*

Wedding Coordinator to orchestrate/guide the service.
(Make check payable to: **Pam Thiede**) \$ 100*

Facility use. (Make check payable to: **Crossroads Presbyterian Church**) \$ 150*

Sound technician to set up/take down equipment for music,
microphones, and audio record.
(Make check payable to: **Please coordinate with Worship Ministers**) \$ 150*

Organist/pianist for rehearsal and wedding.
(Make check payable to: **Please coordinate with Worship Ministers**) \$ 150

Soloist for rehearsal and wedding.
(Make check payable to: **Please coordinate with Worship Ministers**) \$ 125

Additional music fees are negotiable based on requirements. \$ _____

Reception fee is negotiable based on requirements.
(Make check payable to: **Crossroads Presbyterian Church**) \$ _____

**Required fees.*

TOTAL FEES \$ _____

Bride's Signature _____ Date: _____

Groom's Signature _____ Date: _____

Crossroads Presbyterian Church
PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY POLICY

Photographer: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Every couple wants a photographic record of their wedding. Crossroads Presbyterian Church is cognizant of the importance of a photographic and videographic record of the wedding service.

The Church is also aware that a wedding day is one of the most important days in the lives of the families involved. We desire a service which is sacred, meaningful and free from distractions. With that in mind, the Church has formulated the following policy which will allow photography and videography to occur within the context of the wedding service.

- Professional photographers are NOT allowed to take photographs in the sanctuary beyond the fourth pew from the rear of the church. This applies to the period before the service, during the service and immediately after the service.
- Professional photographers are NOT allowed flash photography in the sanctuary once the bride arrives at the chancel. Flash photography by the professional photography is permitted during the recessional.
- Videographers must remain in the rear of the sanctuary at all times and are not permitted in any of the aisles. A remote, unmanned video camera is permitted in the far aisles on both sides of the sanctuary. All video recording must be coordinated with the Crossroads Sound Technician.
- Guests are NOT permitted to take any photography (still or flash) or Videography during the service (from the time the bride arrives at the chancel to the time of the recessional).
- The wedding party is welcome to re-pose pictures immediately following the service.

The bride and groom are responsible for communicating these policies to the photographer and videographer as well as invited guests prior to the wedding. We suggest that a copy of this document be provided to the photographer.