



We exist to glorify God by making disciples who find their joy in Jesus!

WEDDING MANUAL

Perrow Presbyterian Church

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www.perrowchurch.com

****Set NO dates until your wedding has been approved****

INTRODUCTION

Marriage is an institution ordained of God, blessed by our Lord Jesus Christ, established and sanctified for the happiness and welfare of mankind, into which the spiritual and physical union of one man and one woman (as biologically designed by birth) enter, cherishing a mutual esteem and love, bearing with each other's weaknesses, comforting each other in trouble, praying for each other, and living together the length of their days as heirs of the grace of life.

The distinctive contribution of the Church in performing the marriage ceremony is to affirm that marriage is instituted by God, to invoke God's blessing upon those who enter into the marital relationship in accordance with His Word, to hear the vows of those who desire to be married, and to assure the married partners of God's grace within their new relationship.

MARRIAGE GUIDELINES FROM THE BIBLE

The Church of Jesus Christ is committed to marriage of one man and one woman (as biologically designed by birth). We are committed to marriage because God is the Author of marriage. One of the great privileges of the Church is to be involved with marriage in general and the marriage ceremony in particular.

While marriage is a great gift and celebration, the Bible clearly regulates marriage. While the Church established by Jesus Christ has been given the privilege of performing marriages, it is also true that the Church has **no authority to perform any marriages other than those which meet Scriptural guidelines**. It is important to affirm these guidelines particularly in light of an era in which divorce is prevalent. Therefore, Perrow Church will perform only those marriages which meet the following Scriptural criteria:

1. Ordinarily, those qualified for Christian marriage are men and women (as biologically designed by birth) who have been born again by faith in Jesus Christ.
2. Christian Marriage takes place between two individuals who have been born again by faith in Jesus Christ. The Bible states explicitly and repeatedly that marriage between a Christian and non-Christian is a violation of God's will (Ex. 23:32, 34:15-16; Duet. 7:1-4, 6; Joshua 23:12; Ezra 9:1-3, 9-14; 2 Cor. 6:14-16). ***Therefore, the Church will not perform any marriages between a Christian and a non-Christian.***
3. Divorce was an unfortunate fact in Jesus' day, as it is in our own. Therefore, anyone who is seeking to be married at Perrow, who has experienced a divorce, must meet with a pastor of the church before Perrow will commit to performing the ceremony.
4. The Bible teaches that marriage is between one man and one woman (biologically designed by birth), Perrow Church therefore, will not perform nor host same-sex marriages or marriages between more than two people (i.e. polygamy), whether they are church members or not.
5. See the evangelical Presbyterian church's position papers "Divorce and Remarriage",

“Homosexuality”, and ‘Sanctity of Marriage” attached to this package.

PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

Pre-marital counseling is required at Perrow Church for all couples seeking marriage. Perrow pastors are available and the counseling is offered at no charge. It is our privilege and joy to help establish a Biblical foundation for any prospective marriage.

Pre-marital counseling at Perrow is not cursory in nature. We are convinced that much thought, prayer, and teaching goes into establishing a Biblical foundation for marriage. ***All, pre-marital counseling will consist of 6 - 10 counseling sessions beginning no less than six months before the wedding, so plan accordingly.***

Couples are also strongly urged to consult with a pastor prior to engagement. A pastor’s consultation as to the nature of Biblical marriage can be invaluable in the process of determining whether God intends marriage or simple friendship between a man and a woman. Furthermore, while it would be an unusual occurrence, a pastor in consulting with a couple may come to the conclusion that the couple does not meet Biblical criteria or that the prospect for their marriage is not a happy one. Consulting with a pastor prior to engagement could save much heartache for all involved.

OPERATION AND USAGE OF FACILITIES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this section is to insure proper communication to the persons involved in weddings conducted at Perrow Presbyterian Church. The guidelines presented shall be clearly understood and accepted by the wedding party

MINISTER

The minister who conducts the wedding ceremony must be approved by the Lead Pastor of Perrow. This name shall be provided to the pastor with address and telephone number, with the information concerning whether or not pre-marriage counseling has been offered and completed.

MUSIC

Musicians (organist, soloist, etc.) are to be contacted and compensated separately.

DECORATIONS

Decorations need not be elaborate to be lovely; simplicity is always in good taste. As in any worship service, the ornamentation of the Sanctuary should direct attention toward God rather than the wedding party. Sanctuary decorations should not hide or obscure the Christian symbols. Any furnishings or equipment removed for the ceremony must be returned to its original place. Candles can be used in the service but must have drop cloths under them even though drips less candles are used. Extinguish the candles promptly after the ceremony. A responsible person must monitor the candles while burning.

POLICY ON SMOKING AND ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

NO alcoholic beverages are permitted in the facility at any time. There are **No exceptions**. The wedding party must enforce this rule. Smoking is allowed outside of the building, but it is the wedding party's responsibility to ensure no cigarette butts are left on the property.

LIGHTING

All lights can be used as needed. Turn off all lights after the ceremony is completed or after the photo session.

KITCHEN

The use of the kitchen is available. The church Business Administrator must be contacted regarding the instructions of its use.

WEDDING PARTY DRESSING ROOM

The church parlor may be used for the wedding party to dress.

SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

All use is subject to the following:

1. Fill out the Facilities Usage Agreement and return it to the Office Manager no later than 10 weeks prior to wedding.
2. The Office Manager will schedule a meeting with the prospective bride and groom to review policy and procedures.
3. Your plans will then be reviewed, approved and forwarded to the pastoral staff for their approval. This complete process may take several weeks, so the earlier you fill out the forms the better.
4. Your wedding date will then be added to the church calendar. Weddings are not allowed at our facility on Sundays due to our worship services and other activities.
Friday weddings should be scheduled to begin prior to 4:00 p.m., and over by 10:00 pm. Saturday weddings should be scheduled to begin prior to 2:00 p.m. and over by 10:00 p.m.

WEDDING FACILITY USAGE AGREEMENT

This page (Usage Agreement) is to be removed & returned to the church secretary.

TODAY'S DATE __/__/__

DATE OF WEDDING __/__/__

Time & Date Facilities Are Needed For:

Rehearsal: Time __: AM PM Date __/__/__

Wedding: Time __: AM PM Date __/__/__

BRIDE'S NAME

Home Address

Home Phone

Church Affiliation & Address

Perrow Church Session and Pastoral Staff based upon this agreement's "Marriage Guidelines from the Bible."

Date ___/___/___

Bride's Signature

Date ___/___/___

Groom's Signature

Date ___/___/___

Perrow Pastor's' Signature

Note that this form is not complete and will not be considered for approval unless signatures of both applicants are shown above.