

### **Scheduling Your Wedding...**

We are pleased that you have inquired about having your wedding at Christ Community Church. Your wedding day is a very significant event in your lives, and an important aspect of ministry of this church.

Your reservation fee and information form must be received in order to reserve a date. Firm reservations must be accompanied with the designated reservation fee. Reservation fees are non-refundable.

### **The Pastoral Meetings...**

This time affords the bride and groom and the minister an opportunity to discuss the details of the ceremony and the nature of Christian marriage. A wedding date is only confirmed when the couple has consulted with the officiating pastor.

The minister of Christ Community will officiate at your wedding. She is open to inviting other clergy persons to share in the service. Arrangements may be discussed at your first meeting with the pastor, who will issue the invitation.

Christ Community affirms the Greater Grand Rapids Community Marriage Policy. Couples married at Christ Community are required to participate in premarital counseling with the pastor.

### **The Rehearsal...**

Wedding rehearsals are scheduled to last a maximum of one hour. Therefore, it is important that the bride and groom impress upon all those participating in the service the necessity of arriving promptly. Frequently more than one wedding is scheduled in a weekend and if you are to have adequate time for your rehearsal before another is scheduled, it is essential to begin the rehearsal on time. There should also be an attitude of respect and reverence adopted by all present at the church.

### **The Wedding Day...**

Weddings generally last from 25-35 minutes, but we realize that the process of getting ready and having photo sessions before and/or after the ceremony are an important part of your special day. Therefore, our facility use will include up to four hours on your wedding day. Please plan your schedule accordingly, and also coordinate your schedule with the church office manager.

### **Cancellation Policy...**

In some cases, Christ Community Church may have to cancel a wedding ceremony. In order to avoid such an occurrence, please be sure to:

- Submit your license and Scripture selections a minimum of one week prior to your wedding
- Submit your balance due a minimum of one week prior to your wedding

### **Church Facilities & Policies...**

It is expected that the building and grounds will be used and treated with respect and care appropriate for God's house. Therefore, we request that the following policies be adhered to.

- Our buildings and grounds are smoke and alcohol free.
- There will be no confetti or like product (including rice or bird seed) thrown inside or outside at the entrance of the church.
- Christ Community will not accept responsibility for wedding gifts brought to or displayed at the church or for other valuables you bring.
- The bride and groom will be responsible for any damage to church property or equipment caused by your wedding party or guests.

# Wedding Guidelines



*“... the two*

*shall*

*become one ...”*



2400 forest hill se ▪ grand rapids, mi 49546  
p) 616.954.0331 ▪ f) 616.954.0322  
www.christcommunitygr.org  
info@christcommunitygr.org  
facebook.com/christcommunitychurchgr

### **The Music...**

Music is a beautiful and important part of the wedding service. We suggest you make an appointment as soon as possible to discuss and select the music you wish to include in your wedding service. All music must be fitting for a Christian service of worship.

If a visiting musician is used, a list of the music you are using must be submitted to the church for approval. If a soloist is used, he/she should consult with the musician(s) four weeks before the wedding rehearsal to review the music.

### **Flowers & Decorations...**

It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to make sure that the florist provides proper protection for furniture and carpet under the candles and other decorations. We do not recommend aisle runners. But if an aisle runner is desired, it should be provided by the florist and be 65 feet (and preferably not plastic). It may be pinned to the carpeting, but never taped.

The bride and groom should decide what is to be done with the flowers after the service. They may be left for use in the church on Sunday and will be taken to persons who are sick or homebound after the service.

### **Dressing at the Church...**

Women in the bridal party may dress in the lower level of the church where there is easy access to the ladies' rest room. Men may assemble upstairs in the fellowship area or side office.

### **Procession & Recession...**

Traditionally the groom and groomsmen enter from the side. The mother of the bride is seated last, preceded immediately by the mother and father of the groom. The bride's attendants enter down the aisle. The men stand on the groom's side and the women to the left of the bride. The bride enters last on the arm of her escort.

At the close of the service, the bride and groom are followed by the bride's attendants paired with groomsmen. The bride's parents are then ushered to the back, followed by the groom's parents and grandparents.

### **Receiving Your Guests...**

In our less-formal wedding services, the bride and groom often return to the sanctuary following their recessional to greet friends and dismiss them. In more formal weddings the groomsmen will dismiss the guests.

The bride and groom should decide whether they wish to:

1. Dismiss the guests themselves, greeting each one personally.
2. Have ushers dismiss guests and have receiving line with parents at church.
3. Have ushers dismiss guests and greet them at the reception.

### **Photography & Video Recording...**

Arrangements should be made with your photographer to take pictures before and after the service in the sanctuary and in the rooms where you are preparing for the wedding according to the policies noted in letter "To the Professional Photographer".

The policies of the church regarding the taking of pictures are as follows.

- pictures may be taken in the rooms where the bridal party is waiting.
- photos or video should be taken from *behind* congregational seating once the wedding party has proceeded down the aisle.
- group pictures may be taken in the foyer and/or in the sanctuary for reenactment of the ceremony after the service.
- No flashes or other special lighting may be used during the service.

### **A Final Word...**

We are honored that you are considering Christ Community to celebrate this most important day in your life and faith. We pray that God will richly bless you as you plan for your wedding and life together. Please feel free to call us should you have any questions.

### **Wedding Fees...**

	<b><u>Friends</u></b>	<b><u>Members</u></b>
Non-refundable Reservation Fee:	\$150	\$150
Pastor:	\$300	\$100
*Musician:	\$150	\$150
Host:	\$100	\$100
Sound Tech:	\$75	\$75
Utilities/Building Use:	\$300	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,075</b>	<b>\$575</b>

*\*The musician fee will be deducted from the total if you are providing your own musician(s)*

### **Before the Wedding...**

Bring to the church office at least **one week prior** to your wedding:

- License
- Scripture Selections
- Bulletin Information
- Payments Due

*Please make one check payable to Christ Community Church.*