



Therefore a man shall leave his
father and his mother and hold
fast to his wife, and they shall
become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24

WEDDING POLICY

Rev. February 2023

Wedding Process

Hope Church is always excited when individuals feel that God is leading them to unite in the marriage covenant! In order to make your wedding day the best it can be, we offer the following steps to begin the planning...

1. Contact an HMC pastor - You likely already have an idea of which pastor you would prefer to conduct your wedding ceremony. Start the process by placing a phone call at the church office (260-824-1844) or connect via email through the church website (www.hope4thefamily.com/staff). The following staff pastors are able to conduct marriage ceremonies at Hope Church:

- Geoff Cocanower
- Ross Kilgore
- Kent Koteskey
- Chris Kuntz
- Andrea Miller
- Josh Nash
- Todd Rupp
- Mark Wilson

If your intent is to ask a pastor other than one of those listed above, please contact Pastor Kent in our church office.

The pastor will want to have a conversation with you to help figure out things like:

- Do you fit the eligibility guidelines for being married here at Hope?
- Is the pastor you've chosen available to be there on the date on which you're hoping to be married?
- What type of premarital counseling do you need to plan to be a part of leading up to your big day?

2. Reserve your date on the church calendar - After you have contacted one of our pastors, he or she will help you get your big day reserved on the church calendar. This ensures that you won't have any facility conflicts on that day, and this can only be done after you have spoken with a pastor.

3. Communicate with your Hope Church wedding coordinator - Once you've got your date reserved, your pastor will introduce you to one of our wedding coordinators who will walk alongside all the way! Working with a Hope Church wedding coordinator is a requirement when holding a wedding at Hope Church. Your pastor will provide you with the coordinators name, phone number and email address. The wedding coordinator will be your main point of contact regarding your wedding at Hope Church.

Pro-Marriage Policy

We take marriage very seriously at Hope Church, and we want to do everything we can to help get couples off to a great start in their marriage! Hope Church stands on the foundation of scripture to understand that marriage is the second most important relationship in a person's life — second only to our relationship with Christ alone. In addition, we appreciate that marriage is a meaningful illustration of Christ's love for the church.

Since Hope Missionary Church is pro-marriage and pro-family, the following policy has been adopted to help couples have the greatest chance of success in their marriage as possible.

- Couples who desire to be married at Hope Church must have attended for at least 6 months (at least one of the parties).
- Couples planning to marry are encouraged to contact one of the pastors at least 6 months prior to their marriage.
- Couples being united by a Hope Church pastor will participate in Hope's pre marital class series to prepare them for their upcoming marriage. This series is typically offered in the spring and in the fall of the year. Alternative pre-marriage counseling may be substituted with the agreement of the marrying.
- After getting married, couples are encouraged to attend our annual Marriage Enrichment Weekend.

Remarriage Policy - In cases where divorce is part of the history of one or both of the marriage ceremony participants, great care will be taken by the pastors in seeking to discern the reason(s) for the divorce(s), the possibility for reconciliation, and the current spiritual level of the individuals. In some circumstances, our pastors may not be able to officiate marriage ceremonies where divorce has occurred.

Regarding Same Sex Marriage - In accordance with the position of the Missionary Church denomination...

- Marriage is a sacred institution ordained of God and is an indissoluble union of one husband (born male) and one wife (born female) until parted by death. Marriage, which is the foundation of the family and the Christian home, should only be entered into in the fear and will of God. (Genesis 2:24; Deuteronomy 7:3; Matthew 19:4; 1 Corinthians 7:7,39; 2 Corinthians 6:14,17)
- Ministers are forbidden from encouraging, blessing, or officiating same sex "marriages" or unions. (Genesis 2:24; Leviticus 18:22; Matthew 19:4,5; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Corinthians 6:9,10)

Wedding Costs

Hope Church is pleased to help make your special day amazing, and a part of Hope's help will involve a handful of people working hard alongside you. The following fees will help compensate these people for their investment:

Facility Fee: \$250.00 - This fee is required and paid to Hope Missionary Church. The facility fee includes the use of the sanctuary, main restrooms for wedding party and guests along with two classrooms which can be used as dressing rooms. Any space utilized beyond the specified areas fall under HMC's Facility Use Rental Policy and is subject to typical rental fees. If you plan to rent areas beyond what are included with your wedding, please contact us via facility@hopemc.org.

Please make arrangements as you plan your wedding for the removal of decorations from the sanctuary immediately following your ceremony as our custodial team must prepare the facility for Sunday immediately after your event. Please arrange for someone to retrieve all items from your dressing rooms following your event.

Audio Technician Fee: \$125.00 - This fee is required and paid directly to the audio technician. The audio technician fee includes a technician for the rehearsal and wedding. This fee covers audio, lighting & projection needs for the ceremony. If you require more extensive services, please talk in advance with your technician.

Wedding Coordinator Fee: \$150.00 - This fee is required and paid directly to the wedding coordinator. The wedding coordinator fee compensates the wedding coordinator for their time during set-up, rehearsal, wedding, reception (when applicable), and tear down. This person is your go-to person for any questions you may have regarding the use of the building and any equipment.

Pastor Suggested Minimum: \$200-300

(When determining amounts to give to these individuals, consider the amount of time they are investing, their cost of any music materials, and how much they are contributing to your special day.)

It is customary for these fees to be paid directly to the respective individuals at your rehearsal.