

# Wedding Policy

## Faith Church Irmo, SC

***“Committed to love Jesus Christ, obey Him, and bring others with us.”***

Congratulations upon your desire to have your wedding at our church! The Session would like to express the hope that God will guide, bless and enrich you with every spiritual blessing as you plan and participate in this very special worship service. For Christians, marriage is a permanent covenant through which a husband and a wife are called to live out together before God their commitment to Christ, each other and the community of faith. In a worship service of Christian marriage, a lifelong covenant is made by a woman and a man to each other before God, publicly witnessed and acknowledged by the community of faith.

### I. CIVIL PREPARATION

- A. **Marriage License** - You may secure a marriage license from the office of the County Probate Judge. A blood test is not required in South Carolina. Both parties must appear together to apply for a license. Only one of the party is required to retrieve the license. The waiting period for securing the license varies by county. Contact the office of the County Probate Judge for information.
- B. **Proof of Age** - Proof of age must be validated by the presentation of the birth certificate, military identification, or driver's license. Individuals under the age of 18 must have the parental consent of one parent. All legal arrangements are the sole responsibility of the couple.
- C. **Wedding Service** - The wedding service need not be held in the same county in which the marriage license is obtained. Please be sure to bring your marriage license to the wedding to be signed by the officiating minister in order to be recognized as married in the State of South Carolina.

### II. WEDDING GUIDELINES

- A. **Requirements** - To be married at FC a bride and groom must meet three requirements:
  - 1. All brides and grooms must be confessing Christians with a desire to produce a Christian home and thus honor the biblical doctrine of the sanctity of marriage.
  - 2. All weddings must be approved by the Session or Senior Pastor.
  - 3. All couples must complete FC's premarital counseling or an approved substitute program.
- B. **Wedding Date** - Individuals wishing to marry in the church are asked to first submit the FC Wedding Request Form for tentative approval by the staff at which time the couple is required to meet with the senior pastor before the wedding date can be finalized. This should be done as soon as possible.

*Note: FC members may secure use of church facilities up to twelve (12) months prior to the wedding date requested. Non-members will not be officially entered into the church calendar until six (6) months prior to the wedding date requested. They may, however, schedule their wedding prior to the six month window with the understanding that other events may be given priority. When the six month mark is passed, the date becomes official. **Approval of the pastor and wedding coordinator along with deposit payment (\$200) are required before wedding date is finalized.***

- C. **Pre-Marital Counseling** - In line with Scriptural standards, couples are required to have pre-marital counseling. In view of the high rate of divorce, our church believes pre-marital counseling must be held prior to the wedding. Counseling will serve to enhance the years of marriage following your wedding. Issues to be discussed include covenant commitment, finances, children, spiritual nurture, the physical aspects and other issues. Counseling may also reveal that a couple should postpone wedding plans so as to work out personality or commitment differences.
- D. **Music Selections** - The choice of music for a wedding should reflect the worship of God since a wedding is clearly a worship service. It should not contain music that is inappropriate or that has no relationship whatsoever to God, Christian doctrines, or Christian values. The approved FC Wedding Director will give guidance.
- E. **Wedding Director** - Weddings held at FC require the service of one of our approved Wedding Directors, even if you are using another wedding director. The FC Wedding Director assists the couple with intricacies of church policies, the facility and fine details regarding the marriage worship service itself. See Fee table for fees.

### III. FACILITY GUIDELINES

- A. **Decorations** - It is the desire of FC that decorations for the sanctuary be kept within the bounds of simplicity and good taste, appropriate for a house of worship. The FC Wedding Director will assist you if you have questions.
1. Flowers may not be placed on the piano. Care should be taken so as not to spill dirt or water on the carpet. Candelabras may be used only with metal encased candles (available through your florist.) All other candles must be drip-less.
  2. Nothing should be attached to walls or ceilings. Due to safety reasons, aisle cloths may not be used. No pins or tacks may be used, and only tape specified "temporary or removable adhesion" (gaffers or painters tape, or 3m™) may be used to secure decorations to woodwork, including pews. Due to fire regulations, no exits may be blocked.
  3. Flowers and other decorations used for the wedding must be removed immediately following the ceremony. Couples who wish to provide flowers for Sunday worship should arrange this through their FC wedding director.
- B. **Rice or Bird Seed** - Rice, bird seed or confetti are not allowed to be thrown inside or outside the church building.
- C. **Photography** - No flash photography is permitted during the ceremony. Flash photography is permitted prior to the processional and during the recessional. Time-exposure pictures from the back of the sanctuary during the service are permitted. However, pictures or video utilizing extra light or flash during the service may not be taken. *Photographers may not be in view while the service is in progress, as such would detract attention from the bride and groom and the vows taken. A video recording of the wedding may be made from the back; however, additional lights in the sanctuary are not permitted. **It is the responsibility of the couple to arrange for their own photography and inform the photographer(s) and wedding guests of this policy regarding photography.***
- D. **Media, Sound and Lighting** - FC sound system is adequate to provide good sound reproduction by the musicians and to make any recordings necessary. Also, pre-recorded background music may be utilized through the sound system. FC will assign a Sound Technician for your wedding. *A sound recording of the service can be made upon request. See Fee Table for fees.*
- E. **Nursery** - FC suggests that childcare be provided for small children. Facilities are available in the lower level of the church building. Due to insurance requirements, Faith pre-approved nursery workers will be required. See Fee table for fees.

# WEDDING FORM – FAITH CHURCH

## WEDDING INFORMATION

Wedding Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Time(s) of Event: \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Bride’s Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride’s Parents Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom’s Name : \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom’s Parents Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Is Bride/Groom or Parents a member of Faith Church ( Yes / No ) If not, where is the Bride’s and Groom’s church membership?

Bride: \_\_\_\_\_ Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

## REHEARSAL INFORMATION

Rehearsal Date : \_\_\_\_\_ Starting Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Est. Time of Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Date : \_\_\_\_\_ Starting Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Est. Time of Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Reception held at Faith ( Yes / No ) Starting Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Est. Time of Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Premarital Counselor : \_\_\_\_\_ Faith Pastor Officiating: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Pastor Officiating: \_\_\_\_\_

Name	Address	Phone #
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*I understand that premarital counseling is required in order to be married at Faith Church.  
I agree to abide by the rules and policies set forth by Faith Church*

Bride Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Groom Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Minister Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Date Approved \_\_\_\_\_