



YOUR WEDDING

at

CALVARY
CHURCH

Your Wedding at Calvary

Congratulations on your engagement! This is an exciting and important time as you prepare for your life together and learn about God's design for your marriage relationship. Here at Calvary Church, we desire to walk with you, so that your wedding day and your life together will be a blessing to you, as well as bring honor and glory to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Marriage is a human relationship ordained and instituted by God (Malachi 2:14-16). God's design is one man and one woman united by marital covenant for life (Genesis 2:23-4; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18). The relationship is symbolical of the relationship between Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:21-33). When a man and a woman make a sacred and lifelong promise to live together in spiritual, physical, and material unity for as long as both live, it is ultimately designed to reflect the love and faithfulness of God.

Since we are biblically committed to Christian marriage, we require that both applicants be sincere and committed **believers in Jesus Christ** (2 Corinthians 6:14), committed to **living in purity** as an engaged couple, and **active participants in a local church**. We believe that those intending to be married **should not live together in the same residence before marriage**. We normally require **six months** of premarital counseling, believing this will give an engaged couple the best start possible for their marriage. You will find an explanation of our premarital preparation process in this document. Please take time to read it over and familiarize yourself with it.

We also desire to come alongside those of you preparing for remarriage, recognizing that remarriage and/or blending families provides unique stressors as evidenced by the higher rate of divorce for second marriages. Effective premarital preparation is all the more important for those remarrying and there may be extra meetings to ensure there is healing from the past and a firm foundation for your new relationship. Remarriage can only take place at Calvary Church according to our understanding of biblical principles. These are explained in a separate document that has been extracted from our constitution, and is available upon request. Better yet, we invite you to sit down with one of our pastors to explore these biblical principles on divorce and remarriage and how they relate to your situation.

We are excited for you and look forward to getting to know you better over the coming months. If you have not already done so, please fill out the wedding request form at <https://www.calvarychurch.org/more/weddings-at-calvary/>, to get the process started.

Wedding Questionnaire Guidelines

Couples who plan to be married at Calvary Church are asked to proceed by the following guidelines.

Qualifications for Weddings and Mentorship at Calvary:

1. Church facilities are available for weddings of active Church family, staff and supported Global Partners. This also applies to children of those in these three categories, who are themselves committed, active Christians.
2. If you desire to use an officiating pastor who is not on our staff, we will provide a Calvary Church pastor to sponsor the event. The sponsoring pastor is then responsible to work with the officiating pastor to ensure that adequate premarital counseling is taking place, and to act as a resource for the engaged couple and marrying pastor regarding policies and procedures for weddings at Calvary Church.
3. Calvary Church does not normally provide for the use of its facilities for weddings or receptions of those outside its church family. Any exceptions to this practice must be sponsored by a member of the ministry staff who has a prior relationship with the applicant and has agreed to officiate. Such an exception will not be granted for the sole reason that the applicant's own facility is not suitable.

Process:

1. **Wedding Request Form:** Submit your completed wedding request form at least six months prior to the intended wedding date at <https://www.calvarychurch.org/more/weddings-at-calvary/>.

Please note your request of marrying pastor on the request form. Pastor Beau Eckert's schedule does not allow for him to do weddings. There are many pastors and elders available to serve you and your wedding needs. When filling out your request, please select a first and second choice, from the list of available pastors, in the drop-down bar. We encourage you to contact your preferred marrying pastor to let him know you have requested his participation and to inquire about his availability. Reservation of the desired wedding date will be confirmed by our Events Coordinator **within two weeks of the receipt of the request**.

The Calvary church marrying pastor will contact you to set up an initial "get to know you" meeting and to discuss Calvary's premarital mentoring process. It is understood that entering into premarital counseling does not constitute an agreement or approval to be married here. The pastor performing the wedding, in good conscience before the Lord, reserves the right to postpone or deny any ceremony, if he believes it is in the best interest of the couple or the church. If you are having someone from outside of Calvary Church marry you, please indicate this on the request form and provide contact information. A Sponsoring Pastor will then take the place of Marrying Pastor and will be in contact with you for the initial meeting and be a connection between your marrying pastor and Calvary Church.

2. If you have expressed interest in holding your reception at Calvary Church on the wedding request form, our Events Coordinator will put you in contact with our Director of Food Services who will work with you on menu options.
3. Facilities set up, including Audio Visual needs, will be discussed with our Events Coordinator **one month prior** to your wedding date. In addition, a Wedding Coordinator will be assigned at that time to help with the arrangements at the wedding rehearsal and the wedding itself.

The Marriage Mentor Ministry of Calvary Church

At Calvary, trained premarital mentor couples are a vital part of preparation for and encouragement in your marriage. These couples enjoy helping young couples grow strong in their marriage and have committed themselves to work with a premarital couple eight or more sessions before the wedding. This time frame allows for a quality relationship to develop. The relationship continues after the wedding through post-marital meetings during the first year of marriage. **Couples who want to be married at our church are required to participate in premarital counseling.** The engaged couple will complete a workbook and discuss it as a couple. Then, you will meet with your mentor couple, to talk about these concepts further and how they apply to your specific relationship. The concepts covered in the workbook include: spiritual foundations of marriage, family of origin, personality, expectations, communication and conflict, sexual intimacy, finances and more. This workbook is provided at no cost as a gift from the church to enhance your preparation for marriage.

We also use the PREPARE/ENRICH Marriage assessment which is completed online. We have found this to be a great tool for helping engaged and married couples evaluate their relationship and identify areas of strength and potential growth. There is a cost of \$35 per couple that you will pay online when you take the assessment. The results will then be reviewed with you by the mentor couple and/or the marrying pastor.

You will also meet with your marrying pastor, as your wedding day gets closer, to talk about the meaning of your wedding ceremony and to finalize the details.

Premarital Process at Calvary Church:

- A Calvary Church pastor will meet with you, to get to know you, and hear your story. This will help in matching you with a mentor couple.
- In this initial meeting, the pastor will review the premarital process with you and make sure your questions are answered.
- After this initial meeting, you will hear from the Pastoral Care Ministry Assistant, who will send you the link from Prepare/Enrich, as well as start the process of connecting you with a mentor couple.
- After a match has been made, the mentor couple will contact you within 2 weeks. You should let the Pastoral Care Ministry Assistant know if there is no contact made.
- You will communicate with your mentor couple to schedule meeting dates over the next 6 months.

Guidelines for Weddings and Receptions at Calvary Church

Weddings

1. Calvary Church considers your wedding to be a sacred service. Therefore, we do not require payment for the use of the facility. If you wish, you may make a donation toward the church's expenses, including utilities, A/V technician, wedding coordinator and custodial services. The Events Coordinator can provide you with specific information on the actual costs of these services. Any donation toward these expenses is voluntary.
2. Honoraria to musicians, pastors and others participating are at your own discretion.
3. An audio/visual technician will be provided by the church for the rehearsal and the wedding. We do **not** provide a photographer or videographer for the wedding.
4. A Wedding Coordinator will be provided by the church to you to assist with the details of the rehearsal and wedding, but not the reception. (The church coordinator will not provide the services of a wedding planner or consultant. Should you decide to employ an outside wedding consultant, he/she must understand that the Pastor and the Calvary Church Wedding Coordinator will handle all the arrangements at the rehearsal and during the wedding itself.) Please let the Events Coordinator know if you are using an outside wedding planner. The Wedding Coordinator will contact the bride 2 weeks prior to the wedding.
5. A staff custodian will be available in the building during the rehearsal, and from one hour before the ceremony until one hour afterwards.
6. Sunday weddings are not permitted at Calvary Church.
7. Saturday weddings or receptions should be scheduled to vacate the facilities no later than 8:00 P.M. Later times may be scheduled by special arrangement with the Events Coordinator.
8. Weekdays, the facilities are to be vacated by 10:00 P.M.
9. Wedding gifts and decorations are to be removed from the church immediately following the wedding or reception.
10. Flash photography is permitted at your discretion.
11. To avoid candle drippings on the carpet, do not use a candle as a lighter. If you have no lighter, one may be borrowed from the maintenance staff person. (Note: Please return promptly and in good condition.)
12. The standard for wedding attire at Calvary is **modesty** and **discretion**. This applies to the rehearsal, ceremony and reception. Specifically, the neckline of the dresses of the bride and bridesmaids should not be revealing. If you have any doubt or concern about whether a dress would fit Calvary's standard of modesty, please submit a picture of the wedding dress weddings@calvarychurch.org **prior to purchasing**.

Receptions

1. Calvary Church Food Services may be available to work with you to meet your needs—tastefully presented hors d'oeuvres and an elegant banquet for up to 400 guests.
2. Wedding receptions at Calvary Church are catered by Calvary Church food services.
3. We do not provide a sound technician for the reception.
4. Receptions will be allowed when there is no conflict with the church schedule. No receptions are to be held on Sunday.
5. Church tables, chairs, or other equipment are not generally permitted to leave the church property.
6. Glitter, confetti and smoke are not permitted in the church facilities. Nothing may be thrown or scattered inside the building. Alcohol is not permitted at receptions or in any other areas of the church. Birdseed, sparklers and bubbles may be used outside the church. You must provide your own buckets for the used sparklers.
7. Social dancing will be permitted at Calvary Church only for the couple (and with their immediate family) at their wedding or wedding anniversary reception. If you would like to include dancing in your reception in this limited way, please discuss the details with the sponsoring/marrying pastor in the early planning stages.

Social dancing in any particular cultural context—unlike dancing as an expression of worship—is not directly addressed in Scripture. We may evaluate any expression of social dancing by applying biblical principles. We conclude that some social dancing today is erotically suggestive, if not erotically stimulating. Such dancing is hence inappropriate for the unmarried, for those married dancing with partners not their spouse, and for married couples dancing suggestively in public—even though all these are widely accepted in our culture.

Because Calvary Church cannot oversee the appropriateness of types of social dancing at events and receptions we host, social dancing will be permitted at Calvary Church only for the couple (and with their immediate family) at their wedding or wedding anniversary reception. Such dancing should be to appropriate music, with wholesome lyrics, and as a public expression of tender marital and familial love—similar to the symbolism of the kiss in a wedding ceremony.

Please keep in mind...

- Enjoy your wedding—it is a special day of celebration together and before God.
- Keep the proper focus throughout the whole day.

Marriage is a sacred institution and the wedding ceremony is a declaration of a commitment and covenant with God—the nature of the wedding reception celebration should reflect the same values.

This should impact:

Attire: modest and appropriate

Activity: wholesome and honoring

Music: appropriate and fitting

Atmosphere: joyful and thankful

Wedding Fact Sheet

Available at Calvary for your use:

- Chapel:
15 rows on right side, 13 rows on left side. Downstairs comfortably seats 250. Balcony seats 44.
Center Aisle 56 ft. long (plus 14 ft. on steps and platform).
Organ and Piano (Organ use restricted)
- Plant Stands (Black and White)
- Hurricane Candle Floor Stands (Black and White)
- Candle Stands for the Unity Candles
- Small table for unity candle (3 ft. & 18 in.—29 ½ in. high)
- Pedestals and Lecterns available as needed.
- Private Bride's Dressing Room with nearby restroom.
- Large Courtyard with gardens and waterfall for photos or garden reception.
- A dressing room will also be provided for the groom and groomsmen.

Musicians / Organist:

The applicant is responsible to arrange for all musicians. If you need contact information for musicians who may be available to play at your wedding, please contact the Worship Ministries Department at (717) 509-6249.

Please note that only authorized musicians may use the organs. Contact the Worship Ministries department for a list of currently authorized organists who may be available for weddings, or to seek authorization for an outside individual to use the organ at your wedding.

Sound Room Procedure:

The Audio Technician will call the bride or groom one week prior to the wedding to get the order of program and any other necessary details. The Audio Technician will attend the wedding rehearsal to help arrange for needed sound equipment. Church audio and video equipment is generally operated only by trained Church staff, and must be reserved well in advance of the event. The Audio Technician does not typically run sound for the reception.