

Weddings at Cedarbrook

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This document is to help familiarize you with how we do weddings at Cedarbrook. The following is a list of answers to questions that people have had in the past or things we want you to be aware of before you plan your wedding.

Will we marry you?

If you are a member, we will absolutely marry you. We are also happy to do weddings for people that don't attend Cedarbrook if time permits. Our priority is to serve our members first. We'll do our best to accommodate everyone who asks us to marry them, but it's not always possible. We always like to meet a couple first before we officially agree to do a wedding. We reserve the right to decline any wedding.

When should you book us?

Contact us as soon as you have a date. But we don't always know our schedules more than six months out. We'll do our best to secure your date. If you desire a specific pastor, contact them directly.

Will we travel for a wedding?

We prefer to do weddings at our church building. We are willing to travel a little (less than an hour) but there will be an extra charge for travel. Saturdays are big days for sermon preparation and/or other church events. The less we're gone the better. Plus, sometimes there are two weddings in a day and so not traveling keeps us available for others. An out of town wedding is an additional \$100 plus mileage ([IRS Current Rate](#)).

What do you need to do?

Give us a call or email us to set up a meeting. We'd like to meet you as soon as possible and get you on our calendar. Send us a picture of you both so we can remember what you look like! We like to get to know you so we can personalize the wedding. So help us get to know you two and what makes you tick.

Do You Offer Pre-Marital Counseling?

Yes. We require it of Cedarbrook members because we think it's so important. It's included in the cost of member weddings. It's \$200 extra for non-members. We meet with couples four times and talk through the book "Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts". We also recommend getting the His/Her workbooks (by the same title) and working through them along with reading the book. Couples should read the book together (preferably) highlighting important points along the way. Then share your highlights with us when we meet. Read two chapters and then schedule a meeting with us.

We also recommend taking the Taylor Johnson Temperament Inventory. This is an online test that both of you take; first on yourself and then on your fiancé. The results show your personality and compares

them with your fiancé. It's very helpful. This is an additional charge of \$75. Learn more here...
<http://www.tjta.com/abouttjta.htm>

What about the rehearsal?

If the wedding is small (less than 50 people), rehearsals can be done an hour before the wedding...no need for a rehearsal the day before. This is true for out of town weddings especially. For larger weddings it's good to have a rehearsal. Rehearsals are usually the day before the wedding and take about 30 minutes. We walk through the program twice to make sure everyone knows where to be at the right time. Everyone in the wedding party should attend. Note: we typically don't attend rehearsal dinners (or wedding receptions) unless we are a personal friend of the family.

Do we have to talk about God in the ceremony?

As pastors, we want God to be honored and acknowledged in your wedding. If you don't want God to be a part of the wedding then we are not the best people to perform the wedding. You might want to simply hire a lawyer or justice of the peace. If including your faith is important to you be sure to mention this to us. We will make sure that we draw attention to it in the ceremony.

Who handles the marriage license?

The wedding license needs to be purchased in advance of the wedding. Contact the Register of Deeds immediately. After the wedding it should be returned by mail or in person by someone you trust. We do not handle this because we don't want to be responsible! Be sure to fill it out accurately, with black ink, and no scratch outs because they will send it back to you to make official corrections.

What is the fee for performing a wedding?

Members:

- Ceremony: \$200
- Counseling: Free/four sessions

Non-members:

- Ceremony: \$300
- Counseling: \$200/four sessions

Travel less than an hour: \$100

Taylor Johnson Inventory: \$75

Book and Workbooks: see amazon.com for "Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts"

Pastor Remy only performs weddings for members.

Note: Please make payment before the wedding and make the check out to the pastor performing the wedding.

Do you marry people that are living together?

Yes...but...let me seize the moment to tell you something. We realize that, more and more, the norm today is for couples to live together before marriage...if not live together, then certainly have sexual relations. If this is your situation we encourage you to reconsider this prior to your wedding. Let me explain.

Sex was meant to serve as a *celebration* of a marriage union...the “icing” on the cake. Too often couples engage sexually before they’ve developed an emotional and spiritual bond that will help their marriage endure. Being involved sexually prior to marriage tends to *restrict* long-term intimacy rather than enhance it. It’s easy to have sex. It’s much harder to learn how to communicate well and develop spiritually.

When you save sex for marriage it is a constant reminder to build your emotional and spiritual foundation *first* and THEN add the sexual layer after marriage. Old fashioned? Maybe... but the Bible’s prohibition of sex outside of marriage isn’t prudish. It’s wise counsel.

Having said that...know that we don’t judge people who choose differently than what we recommend. We just feel responsible to let couples know that there is wisdom in following the biblical model of saving sex to celebrate marriage.

Now that you’ve mentioned it...I may have some sexual issues. What do I do?

Some people come into marriage having had a number of sexual partners. There are parts of you connected to other people out there and at some level you feel it. There are “soul ties” that need to be broken and healed. If you recognize that you have some wounds in these areas I encourage you to talk to us or another counselor so you approach your marriage as healed and whole as possible. You want to get off on the right foot. In general, people take their sexual history too lightly. You will bring your past with you unless you do something about it.

What vows do you use?

We’ve taken the traditional vows and made them contemporary. Read them through (below) to make sure that you can fully agree with them. We don’t want you to be surprised at what they say in the middle of the wedding! *Awkward!* Feel free to change the vows. This is YOUR wedding. Customize them if you wish. Just let us know in advance so we can have them in front of us and not handed to us on a scrap of paper at the last minute! Most couples use the vows below.

What is the typical marriage program look like?

Again, it’s YOUR wedding. You can do whatever you’d like in terms of order of service. When it comes to song choice or readings, we just ask you to choose songs that focus on love and not steamy songs that are more appropriate for a bar or the bedroom!

Following is how 95% of people format their ceremony (note: we put in bold what is typical in the program);

- Light Candles
- Seat grandparents and parents
- **Processional** of Attendants
- Groom waits up front with pastor while bride comes down the aisle
- *Who gives this woman to be married to this man?* (Traditional. Used less and less).
- **Pastoral Greeting**
- **Prayer**
- **Song or Reading**
- **Pastor’s Reflection** (usually five minutes)
- **Exchange of Vows**
- **Exchange of Rings**
- **Lighting of the Unity Candle** or Blending of the Unity Sand (Song)

- **Prayer** for Couple
- **Pronouncement** of Husband and Wife
- Kiss
- **Introduction** to Congregation
- **Recessional**

When printing the program please check to make sure you have our names spelled correctly. Thanks. Also, please note us as the pastor at Cedarbrook Church. If you use someone else, please note who they are so people realize they are not pastors at Cedarbrook.

How Long Does a Ceremony Last?

It all depends on what you want in the ceremony. The typical ceremony outlined above is 20-30 minutes. We don't preach a sermon... only share a few words of reflection regarding the couple, marriage and God. No one comes to a wedding to hear a sermon! Most people appreciate a shorter wedding. We receive many compliments for the way we perform wedding ceremonies because they are interesting, light-hearted, and short!

Wedding Vows:

Note that traditional vows are a bit repetitious. First you listen and say "I do". Then you repeat after me. Then you exchange rings and make yet another vow. If you want to streamline things you could eliminate either the "I do" section or the repeating section. Most people do it all.

To Groom:

____, do you take ____ to be your wife?
 Do you promise to be faithful to her,
 Seeking to understand and care for her?
 Do you promise to love her, honor her and serve her when she is sick and when she is well?
 Do you promise to abandon everyone else and abandon everything else for her benefit as long
 as God gives you life?
 Groom: I do

To Bride:

____, do you take ____ to be your husband?
 Do you promise to be faithful to ____
 Seeking to understand him and care for him,
 Do you promise to love him, honor him and serve him when he is sick and when he is well?
 Do you promise to abandon everyone else and abandon everything else for his benefit as long as
 God gives you life or until the Lord returns?
 Bride: I do

To Groom: (repeat after pastor)

____, I love you – and because of my love for you –
 And because I believe – that God has brought us together –
 I ____ – take you, ____ – to be my wife –
 To have and to hold – from this day forward –
 For better or for worse – for richer and for poorer –
 In sickness and in health,
 To love, honor and respect you.

As long as we both shall live.

To Bride: (repeat after pastor)

____, I love you – and because of my love for you –
And because I believe – that God has brought us together
I ____ – take you ____ – to be my husband
To have and to hold – from this day forward
For better and for worse
For richer and for poorer
In sickness and in health
To love, honor and respect you
As long as we both shall live

- Exchange of Rings -

To Groom: *Do you have a symbol of your love?*

____, do you give this ring as a symbol of your commitment to keep your promise and fulfill these vows? I do.

Repeat after me: ____, I give you this ring – as a symbol- of my love and commitment to you – before God.

To Bride: *Do you have a symbol of your love?*

____, do you give this ring as a symbol of your commitment to keep your promise and fulfill these vow? I do.

Repeat after me: ____, I give you this ring – as a symbol- of my love and commitment to you – before God

I hope these guidelines helped answer your questions. Please contact us with your questions or interest in booking one of us for your wedding.

Pastors:

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