

*Planning
Your
Wedding*



at

**EMMANUEL
COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

– Fort Wayne, IN –

a publication of



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Your Wedding at Emmanuel Community Church

Emmanuel Community Church desires to minister to couples planning to be married.

This brochure is intended to answer your initial questions about planning and holding a wedding at ECC.

Q&A *Questions & Answers*

What are the prerequisites for being married at ECC?

As a church, it is our commitment to foster lasting marriages under God and to establish successful spiritual families. Almost 90% of all marriages are performed by pastors, and we are troubled by the nearly 50% divorce rate. Our hope is to radically reduce the divorce rate among those married in our church community. In light of that, we have established the following qualifications:

- Our facilities are available to members and regular attenders of ECC **only**, (*regular attenders are defined as those couples who have attended ECC on a regular basis for at least six months prior to the booking of their wedding*).
- Our Church Discipline has specific guidelines concerning divorce and remarriage. These guidelines will be discussed at the first session, if applicable.
- The couple will agree to ECC's Pre-marital Preparation Agreement, which includes an agreement by the couple not to live together prior to the wedding and to abstain from sexual activity until after the wedding.
- Our church staff will not take part in marrying a Christian to a non-Christian.

We have prepared a wedding packet that outlines the process of getting married at ECC and details our policies regarding the use of our facilities. The packet can be obtained at your initial meeting with our spiritual care pastor.

Will pre-marital counseling be expected and/or provided?

Counseling is an important part of your preparation for your marriage. We require a minimum of six counseling sessions including the initial interview. These sessions are designed to help couples be better prepared for marriage. We use several assessment (i.e. PREPARE, Taylor Johnson Temperament Analysis) during the preparation.

These sessions must begin three months before the wedding. We will not perform a wedding without the required number of sessions being completed.

Pre-marital counseling can also be administrated by another pastor (for example, the officiant) as approved and directed by our spiritual care pastor.

What is ECC's belief concerning the actual ceremony?

We believe a Christian wedding ceremony is an act of worship. We want your wedding to be one that is personal, creative and meaningful. We will permit you to be flexible with your service and will also provide guidance. Selection of music and additions to the ceremony are subject to approval by our spiritual care pastor and the officiating pastor.

Who will officiate our ceremony?

Primarily weddings are officiated by our spiritual care pastor. Other pastors may be used based on availability and scheduling.

Sometimes couples have a family member or other pastor that they wish to officiate their ceremony. These situations will be approved at the discretion of our spiritual care pastor.

Are wedding rehearsals required?

The wedding rehearsal is an important part of the wedding. The bride and groom will go through the ceremony with the pastor several times during the preparation time. Most rehearsals are scheduled the night before the wedding, but this is flexible.

Other than our officiant, what other ECC persons will be involved in our ceremony?

All weddings require the use of an ECC trained sound technician and wedding coordinator. You are responsible to contact and secure their services at least four months before your wedding. Contact information will be located in your wedding packet that you will receive at your initial appointment.

What are the costs associated with a wedding at ECC?

Our building usage and personnel fees are based upon your specific requirements. These fees will be reviewed with you during your initial meeting.

A \$100 deposit is required to reserve your date with the balance due at the last pre-marital counseling session.

Weddings performed on a holiday weekend (New Years, Easter, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas) are subject to a 50% increase in fees for maintenance and personnel.

May we include a service of communion in our ceremony?

Our Church Discipline contains strict guidelines for the service of holy Communion. Therefore, Communion cannot be served at wedding ceremonies.

What's our next step?

- Contact the church office to check for available dates and tentatively schedule your wedding on the church calendar.
- Contact Pastor Bob Bruce to arrange your initial meeting (672-3377 or via e-mail at eccbob@mac.com). Pastor Bruce will be able to answer any other questions you may have at that time and will provide you with a wedding packet.
- Remit your \$100 deposit to hold your wedding date.
- Complete and turn in your building usage form (as soon as possible).
- Contact and secure one of our wedding coordinators (at least four months' prior to the wedding).
- Contact and secure a sound technician (at least two months' prior to the wedding).
- If you wish for ECC to prepare your wedding program, plan to drop off your bulletin paper and text (at least two weeks' prior to the wedding).