

Central Church of Christ

Wedding Policy & Procedures

Central Church of Christ
2001 E. Main St. P.O. Box 535
Streator, IL 61364
815.673.1581

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding plans! There are basically two views concerning the institution of marriage. The State may only see marriage as being a binding, legal contract between two people. Those who enter into marriage must be of legal age and consent to the conditions of the contract and various requirements of the State. A judge, mayor, or even a ship's captain may perform such marriages. Once signed, the marriage contract is in force until one or both parties seek to dissolve it through a process called divorce.

However, the Church's view of marriage is quite different. According to the Bible, marriage is a covenant promise. Therefore, Christian marriage is much more than a legal contract. Christian marriage involves promises to one another and also promises to God. It is meant to be a lifelong covenant. Christian marriage was designed by God, and brings the blessings of joy and fulfillment when His divine plan is followed. Christian marriage should enjoy the spiritual power of God's blessings as well as the strength and encouragement of the church family at large. Therefore, a wedding is supposed to be a celebration of the love between a man and a woman. It should be a sacred ceremony in which two lives are committed to one another for a lifetime of faithfulness as they exchange vows with each other. For those wishing to commit themselves to the unique privileges and responsibilities of the Christian marriage covenant, we rejoice with you and offer the following guidelines and policies.

“Haven't you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” Matthew 19:4-6

Questions about Weddings at Central Church of Christ (CCC)

(1) Who can be married at Central Church of Christ?

Members of Central Church of Christ, as well as non-members, may be married here but only after being approved by one of the CCC Ministers.

Marriage is understood biblically by this church to be a life-long and exclusive union between one man and one woman (Matthew 19:4-6). No minister on staff of Central Church of Christ, Streator, IL, nor anyone representing any other church or organization, shall be permitted to perform any ceremony in the facilities, on the property, or under the auspices of Central Church of Christ for the purpose of characterizing as married any individuals claiming exception to that understanding.

No minister on staff of Central Church of Christ, Streator, IL, nor anyone representing any other church or organization, shall be permitted to perform any ceremony in the facilities, on the property, or under the auspices of Central Church of Christ which is not legally recognized by the State of Illinois.

Any minister on staff has the right to refuse to perform any wedding.

(2) How do we reserve our Wedding date?

To reserve a wedding date on the church calendar a couple must do the following:

1. Read this policy guideline. Complete the Agreement Statement and Information Form that came with this policy book. Your signature will indicate your agreement to abide by all the policies pertaining to weddings at CCC.

2. Pay a \$200 security/damage deposit (cash or money order) for the use of the worship center. This fee is in addition to the wedding costs, but will be refunded five (5) days after the completion of the wedding and adherence to all policies and guidelines. However, if the couple cancels the wedding, the deposit is non-refundable. No date will be held without a security/damage deposit, a completed and signed Wedding Policy Agreement Form and a meeting with a CCC Minister.

3. Meet with a Minister (Please bring this policy book to the meeting.) At the conclusion of that meeting the date will either be confirmed or the deposit will be refunded.

*** Wedding dates are reserved on a first-come, first-serve basis.**

***No date will be held without a security/damage deposit, a completed and signed Agreement Statement/Information Form and a meeting with a CCC Minister.**

4. After a church calendar date is reserved and a deposit made, the couple will need to schedule pre-marital planning sessions with one of our Ministers.

(3) Will there be a Wedding Rehearsal?

Typically, a rehearsal is held on the day before the wedding.

Depending on the ceremony plans and size of the wedding party, the rehearsal may last about 45-75 minutes. All members of the wedding party should be in attendance if possible.

(4) Can we use a Minister from another church?

Yes, if the minister is serving in a Church of Christ/Christian Church church and a CCC Minister has agreed to participate in the wedding. The Minister from CCC must participate in the wedding in some fashion and will be in charge of the rehearsal and oversee the wedding. Therefore, you will still need to make wedding plans with the CCC Minister.

(5) How early should we begin planning for our wedding?

It is advisable to contact the church for a wedding no less than three (3) months prior to the desired wedding date.

Dates can be reserved up to a maximum of eighteen (18) months in advance.

(6) Are pre-marital planning sessions required at CCC?

Yes. One of our Ministers will meet with each couple several times to discuss biblical principles for Christian marriage. Wedding plans will also be discussed during these sessions. The exact number of sessions required, will be determined by the Minister.

Pre-marital planning sessions are required for couples who desire to be married at CCC. However, if an outside Minister is going to provide pre-marital sessions, then that Minister must confirm such plans with the CCC Minister. Arrangements will still need to be made to meet with a CCC Minister to plan the details of the wedding.

(7) How large is the Worship center at CCC?

The worship center will seat 315 people at capacity.

There is comfortable seating for about 260 people.

The center aisle is 70 feet in length.

There are 21 sets of pews.

(8) Are there any restrictions for weddings? Yes!

Smoking is not permitted in the church building.

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the church building or on church property at any time.

Illegal drugs are not permitted in the church building or on church property at any time.

Birdseed, rice, or confetti is not permitted for distribution or to be thrown in the church building or on the church property at any time.

Food and beverages are not permitted in the worship center at any time.

(9) What are the guidelines for decorations?

Decorations may be placed on the stage after a representative of CCC has finalized the removal of any of the stage furniture.

All decorations are subject to approval by the Minister.

The church has two candelabras available at no additional cost. Each candelabrum holds seven (7) candles. The church also provides the candles for the candelabra.

An aisle runner may be used. At least a 70-foot length is recommended. The church does NOT provide aisle runners.

Tape is NOT permitted on the pews. Pew decorations may be attached with ribbon, string or pew clips.

All decorations left in the church will become the property of CCC unless prior arrangements are made for their removal.

(10) Does the church have people available to serve as an instrumentalist or vocalist? Yes!

We can arrange for you to meet with one of our instrumentalists and/or vocalists if that is your desire.

A CCC Minister, prior to the rehearsal, must approve any musicians and vocalists from outside sources.

(11) Can secular music be used in our wedding?

Any music appropriate to a Christian wedding may be used. Music selections must be discussed with the Minister and instrumentalist. All music is subject to approval by a CCC Minister.

(12) What do we need to know about videotaping and photography during the ceremony?

The church does not provide videotaping or photography services. However, you may arrange for such services through another source.

Please contact the Wedding Coordinator or Minister regarding camera placement, lighting, etc., for best results.

Flash photography during the ceremony is strongly discouraged.

(13) Can we have our reception at the church? Yes!

Only when scheduling permits. Receptions must be immediately following the wedding ceremony and are limited to approximately two and one-half (2 ½) hours in length.

The same restrictions apply to the use of the (Fellowship Hall) gym as with other parts of the building. (See restrictions listed in questions #8.)

(14) How do I contact the church for more information?

Call the church office at 815.673.1581 and you will be put in contact with someone who can assist you.

The church's address is:
Central Church of Christ
2001 E. Main St. P.O. Box 535
Streator, IL 61364

Financial Arrangements

Wedding fees are assessed to cover the use of the facilities and the services of the organist, custodial staff, audio/visual technician, minister, and wedding coordinator. The bride will supply her own unity candle arrangement. All fees should be given to the minister no later than seven (7) days prior to rehearsal. All fees are to be paid in cash or money order. If paying by money order, have it made out to the name of the CCC officiating minister. No personal checks will be accepted.

Members fees apply to those who:

- are immersed believers.
- maintains active membership at Central Church of Christ for at least 6 months prior to the wedding with greater than 50% attendance on Sunday mornings.
- exception applies to college students or military personnel, but they must be in attendance of a local congregation with greater than 50% attendance on Sunday mornings.
- at least one person of the couple to be married must be an active member of Central Church of Christ to receive membership discount.

Member Fee –

\$650 – this fee covers use of building, custodian, stage clearing, audio/visual technicians, accompanist(s)*, pre-marital counseling (7-9 sessions) and CCC officiating minister**.

\$150 (in addition to above fee) – this fee covers the use of the Fellowship Hall for the reception and custodian for cleanup.

Non-Member Fee –

\$1300 - This fee covers use of building, custodian, stage clearing, audio/visual technicians, accompanist(s)*, pre-marital counseling (7-9 sessions) and CCC officiating minister**.

\$250 (in addition to above fee) – this fee covers the use of the Fellowship Hall for the reception and custodian for cleanup.

Outside Wedding Fee (not utilizing CCC's facilities and equipment)

- ♦ **Member - \$250** (includes counseling and ceremony)

- ♦ **Non-Member - \$450** (includes counseling and ceremony)

Additional Fees will be charged as they apply:

* Price of music may be added for out-of-ordinary wedding music. If couple wants to arrange their own accompanist, fee will be waived.

* If outside musicians are used, a CCC accompanist may be asked to oversee the use of all CCC instruments and will be paid the full fee as a technical consultant. Fees for instrumentalists and/or vocalists who are not provided by CCC are NOT covered as a part of our wedding fees. Therefore, if they are charging you for their services, those charges will be an additional cost to you for which you are solely responsible.

** If you want a guest minister to be a part of your ceremony, please call one of the ministers at Central Church of Christ (815.673.1581) to secure permission. Member/Non-member fees will not be waived due to utilizing a guest minister. (Please see page 4, question 4 for further information.)

If there are questions in regard to these guidelines, they may be resolved by scheduling a meeting with officiating minister. Officiating minister will be a CCC ordained minister who will oversee and participate in the Wedding ceremony.

Central Church of Christ Wedding Policy Agreement

We have read and understand all the guidelines contained in the Central Church of Christ Wedding Policy. We agree to abide by all policies and procedures pertaining to weddings for Central Church of Christ - Streator, IL.

_____ (Bride's signature) _____ (date)

_____ (Groom's signature) _____ (date)

Anticipated wedding date and time: _____

Have you sought to be married by another Minister and been refused?

No _____ Yes _____ If yes, why? _____

BRIDE'S INFORMATION:

Name _____ Age _____

Date of Birth _____/_____/_____

Home Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

E-mail address: _____

Have you ever been married before? No _____ Yes _____ # of Times _____

If married before, are you Divorced? _____ Widowed? _____

Any children? (If so, names & ages) _____

Member of: Central Church of Christ _____ No church _____

Other Church (specify name/location) _____

GROOM'S INFORMATION:

Name _____ Age _____

Date of Birth _____/_____/_____

Home Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____

E-mail address: _____

Have you ever been married before? No _____ Yes _____ # of Times _____

If married before, are you Divorced? _____ Widowed? _____

Any children? (If so, names & ages) _____

Member of: Central Church of Christ _____ No church _____

Other Church (specify name/location) _____