



***Speedway Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)***

Wedding Handbook

At Speedway Christian Church, we believe a wedding is a sacred covenant that binds two people together in the eyes of God. A covenant or sacred promise is a firm foundation on which to build a relationship. A lasting and satisfying marriage takes work, patience, love, and, most of all, commitment. A couple bound together in marriage promises to stay committed to each other even though they do not know what the future will hold, how their feelings might change, or what fortunate or unfortunate circumstances may unfold.

While you may have great expectations about the flowers, reception, and music on your wedding day, our first priority at Speedway Christian Church is to make your wedding day an occasion on which you can both celebrate your love and make a sacred promise to each other. The wedding service should articulate this promise in the strongest possible terms with family and friends and in the presence of God.

The first priority of the marriage at Speedway Christian Church is to create a service of worship during which two people can enter into a covenant that binds them together in the eyes of God. We do encourage you to be somewhat creative and make this service everything you have dreamed it will be.

Inside this booklet, you will find the description of a typical wedding service at Speedway Christian Church. We may make changes, add, or adjust parts of the service. Take a look, make some notes, and feel free to ask questions or suggest any changes you might want to consider.

You will also find a list of frequently asked questions and an outline of our policies and procedures. Some people choose to have their wedding at a hotel, banquet, or some other venue. However, by choosing to have your wedding in a church, we hope you will respect the church not only as a building, but as a place of worship.

It is a joy to open our church to you on this very special occasion. Take some time to read this booklet and if you have any questions, please call the church office at 317-244-7656.

Peace in Christ,
Speedway Christian Church

A Sample Order of Worship for a Christian Wedding

This is a starting point for discussion about your wedding at Speedway Christian Church:

- **Procession**

As the wedding music begins, members of the wedding party process into the sanctuary. The procession can be simple, or big and spectacular. Most of your music choices will be played prior to the processional or during the processional.

- **The Statement of Purpose**

The statement of purpose is a short comment by the minister who shares it with those present.

- **The Declaration of Intent**

Following the opening statement of purpose, the bride and groom are given an opportunity to share their intent to enter into a marriage covenant. A simple response of “I do” or “I will” sets the worship service in motion.

- **Presentation of the Bride and Affirmation of the Families**

Many brides are escorted down the aisle by the bride’s father or a special person selected. Some brides choose to walk down the aisle with both of their parents. After the declaration of intent, the minister will ask, “Who presents this woman to be married?” The father, or other escort, responds with, “Her mother and I,” or a similar and appropriate response. The presentation of the bride is a traditional part of most wedding services. We prefer to provide both families an opportunity to affirm the impending union. The Affirmation of the Families immediately follows the Presentation of the Bride. All family members will be asked to stand as they are able and offer their Affirmation and Blessing to the bride and groom.

- **The Unity Candle**

Occasionally, following the exchange of rings, the bride and groom will light a unity candle. There are usually three candles in the display, with the two outside candles representing the two families. Those two candles are lit before the beginning of the service, and the bride and groom use them to light the middle candle together. This symbolizes the formation of their new life together.

- **The Prayer of Blessing**

This prayer usually invokes the blessing of God upon the marriage. It calls for their home to be blessed, and gives voice to our collective hope for a healthy and happy future together. The Pronouncement of the Marriage traditionally is given by the minister at the end of the service. After the Pronouncement, the minister offers a benediction. It is a short blessing offered as words of parting to the congregation and the bride and groom.

- **The Introduction and the Recessional**

As the service ends, those who are seated will have an inevitable “now what” moment. Give some thought on how the guests are to be dismissed. Decide on how best to communicate your expectations to them. Will there be a receiving line at the church or at the reception or none at all? These decisions are made in advance of your wedding day.

- **Music**

As an integral part of the wedding ceremony, appropriate music will be selected. The wedding music usually begins 20 minutes before the wedding is to begin. If vocal solos are to be used, their texts must correspond to the themes inherent in a Christian marriage. A pre-service program of organ music is typically used; however, if a soloist or instrumentalist(s) has been selected, the organist should be contacted six weeks ahead of time to schedule a rehearsal. All music should be planned with our Minister of Music; no original compositions will be accepted.

Q: Where do I get the marriage license, and who signs it?

A: The couple is responsible for securing the license from the County Clerk's office (Marion County). In Indiana, the minister, the bride, and the groom sign the marriage license. The minister is responsible for mailing the signed license to the county seat. The minister and witnesses, often the maid of honor and the best man, sign the marriage CERTIFICATE. This certificate is then returned to the couple on the day of the wedding.

Q: What are the rules about taking photographs during the wedding ceremony?

A: Our guiding principle is that the wedding ceremony is a service of worship. As such, it should be a sacred occasion free of disruptive events. Flash photography is permitted only during the procession and recession. Sometimes, the bridal party are asked to re-enact the ceremony for the purpose of recording following the service.

Q: Can a video be taken of the wedding ceremony?

A: Basically, the same rules apply here; namely, care must be taken that the filming not disrupt the sacred nature of the occasion. Good videographers will be able to capture your wedding with a minimal footprint in the service. If you have any questions about the taking of photographs or videos, please contact the SCC senior minister. Our balcony is perfect for videos!

Q: Should a program be printed?

A: A program containing the wedding service format and a record of all the participants, including the parents, can be a cherished keepsake for those who attend the wedding or the bride and groom. Offering a program can also enable the congregation to take a more active part of the service. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to provide the program if it is desired.

Q: Can we decorate the church any way we like?

A: Yes, with certain restrictions. No flowers may be placed on the communion table, but greenery is fine. No adhesives may be used on any wood (floors, doors, pews).

The Wedding Interview

The couple is responsible for contacting the appropriate minister a few weeks prior to the wedding to schedule an interview. This is an important requirement of the staff for the purpose of becoming acquainted with both people and establishing a rapport, which will aid in any future relationship. During the interview, the marriage relationship and the wedding service will be discussed. All the ministers are committed to maintaining good communications in marriage and are available if counseling is desired during any stage of the new relationship—both before and following the wedding.

Church Facilities

The following church facilities are offered as needed:

- dressing room for bride and attendants
- dressing room for groom and groomsmen
- use of either the sanctuary or Bethany Room
- two brass candelabras in the sanctuary (seven branch)
- sconces on the side walls

Arrangements for flowers, kneeling bench, unity candle, and/or aisle runner should be made with a florist. The sanctuary aisle is 63 feet long, with 38 pews, 19 on each side. While flowers may be used during the service, the wedding guests should be instructed not to throw rice, birdseed, flowers, confetti, or other similar items inside the church building or on the steps.

When you leave, please make sure the church is in the same condition in which you found it. Refrain from leaving items to be picked up on another day. If something is left by accident and it is found, the item will be held for two weeks before it is thrown away.

Wedding Fees

Wedding fees include the non-refundable deposit, minister, organist, wedding facilitator, use of the building, and custodial and administrative fees.

*A non-refundable deposit (which is part of the total) is required before the wedding can be put on the church calendar. The balance of **all** fees needs to be paid six weeks in advance of the wedding date.*

Notes



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