

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

- No flash photography is allowed during the ceremony.
- Videography can be used if stationed in an area that will not be a distraction during the ceremony.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- No alcohol may be served or used on the church premises.
- Tobacco use is prohibited in all areas of the facilities.
- Due to clean up concerns, no rice may be thrown. (see wedding coordinator).
- Our preference is that after the processional the flower girl and ring bearer would sit with an adult for the remainder of the ceremony until the recessional.

Monroe Evangelical Free Church

Monroe Evangelical Free Church
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MARRIAGE WITHIN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

Marriage is an institution established by God the Father and honored by His Son, Jesus. Whether your wedding is large or small, elegant or simple, public or private, it can only be “Christian” if the hearts and lives of the people involved have been transformed by the presence of Christ. We desire to work together to make your wedding one of the most memorable and happy days of your lives. While we want to tailor each service to the unique needs and desires of each individual couple, the weddings celebrated at Monroe Church must reflect our theological understanding of marriage as a sacred ordinance.

We trust that you will abide by this wedding policy. Please read it carefully to avoid any possible misunderstandings.

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS:

1. *Spiritual Compatibility*—Both individuals must have come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ or both must be seriously considering the truth of Christianity and the claims of Jesus Christ. Scripture forbids the marrying of a believer and a seeker.
2. *Waiting Period*—The services of the pastor should be requested at least six months prior to the wedding date. This requirement gives the couple and the pastor the time needed to complete the necessary premarital counseling.
3. *Right of Refusal*—The pastor reserves the right to refuse to proceed with the wedding under any of the following conditions.

- ▶ if, in the pastor’s opinion, the couple is not spiritually prepared for marriage;

- ▶ if the couple’s lifestyle is not consistent with Scriptural moral expectations;
- ▶ if the couple does not fulfill the pre-marital counseling requirements;
- ▶ if the terms of the rental agreement are violated.

4. *Moral Expectations*—As the Scripture teaches that intimate sexual relations are to be reserved for marriage, the couple will agree to abstain from such until after the wedding.

- ▶ In the case where sexual intimacy has already occurred, the couple shall agree to cease such activity until after the wedding.
- ▶ In the case of those who have been living together, they must establish separate residences until after the wedding.
- ▶ In the case of premarital pregnancy a wedding will not be automatically performed.

5. *Remarriage*—In view of the high priority of the permanence of marriage in Scripture, remarriage is a serious consideration. The Pastor and Elder Board will review any request.
6. *Guest Officiates*—If a guest officiate is to be used they must receive prior approval by the Elder Board. The couple must still have the initial interview with the Sr. Pastor at Monroe and have a plan for pre-marital counseling.
7. *Extenuating Circumstances*—If a couple feels extenuating circumstances merit an exception to these policies, they may appeal in writing to the Monroe Senior Pastor.

WHERE DO WE BEGIN?

- Read through wedding policy brochure and temporarily pencil in date on church calendar until final approval of Senior Pastor.
- Couple interviews with Senior Pastor for initial consultation and approval of wedding.
- Confirm date by issuing a check made out to Monroe Ev. Free Church.
- Check will be held until ceremony.

WEDDING RECEPTIONS ONLY

- The Family Center or auditorium is available for couples that would like to host a reception at Monroe.
- Confirm date by issuing check for \$35 made out to Monroe Ev. Free Church.
- Check will be held until reception.
- Services of kitchen coordinator optional for additional fee of \$25.
- Outside catering is permitted.

WHAT DOES THE DEPOSIT PAY FOR?

- Custodial services
- Trained sound technician
- Pre-marital counseling materials (if applicable)
- Services of the wedding coordinator (optional)
- Kitchen Coordinator (receptions only/optional)

THE WEDDING COORDINATOR

- All couples will have the option of using the services of Monroe’s wedding coordinator who is familiar with the church’s facilities and policies and who is approved and trained for this ministry.

FACILITIES AND CUSTODIAL

- Church facility is thoroughly cleaned prior to wedding rehearsal by our staff.
- Between the time of rehearsal and your ceremony, it is your responsibility to keep the facility clean.
- Our staff will clean after your event.

SETTING THE TIME AND DATE

- Weddings on Saturdays will start no later than 5:30 p.m.
- Weddings on Saturdays with receptions at Monroe will start no later than 3:30 p.m.
- Weddings on other days of the week will be scheduled at a time to be determined through the interview with the Senior Pastor.