

Ten Mile Christian Church Marriage Policy

Statement on Marriage and Sexuality

Ten Mile Christian Church believes that marriage was created by God to be an exclusive union between one man and one woman as it was in the beginning. (Genesis 2:18-24, Matthew 19:4-6). We believe that all marriages should honor and glorify God. Therefore, TMC does not recognize any other concept or definition of marriage other than as described herein.

TMC also believes that sexual intimacy is a gift from God to be enjoyed only within the bounds of a marriage and that such a relationship honors Him. Any and all other sexual activity strays from God's original intent, is immoral and offensive to God and dishonors Him (Hebrews 13:4, 1 Corinthians 7:2-3).

TMC further believes that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as either a man or woman, as defined by the sex manifested biologically by God at conception, formed by God in the womb and revealed by God at birth.¹ These two distinct, different sexes together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:27).

Finally, we believe that God loves all mankind, offering reconciliation and redemption to all who confess and turn away from their sin, seeking mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:1-6, 2 Peter 3:9). All followers of Christ should treat all people with love, compassion, kindness, and respect. All statements and policies contained herein are made in that spirit and a desire to preserve the integrity and function of the Church, with no animosity toward any person or persons as such would not be in accord with the Word of God and the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Policy Foundations

Ten Mile Christian Church is happy to participate in instituting Christian marriages for believers in Jesus Christ. The purpose of a Christian marriage is to glorify God and reflect the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world through the marriage relationship and be an example of faithful obedience as the man and the woman seek to follow God's will together. TMC leadership will determine if the couple desiring to be married complies with TMC's beliefs on marriage and sexuality and may be married at TMC. Only ministers and elders ordained by TMC may be the primary officiant for any wedding ceremony.

The purpose of this wedding policy is to answer questions, eliminate confusion and give clear direction to those who seek to be married under the guidance and authority of the Ten Mile Christian Church ministerial staff. The directives herein will form the foundation for this policy and will guide the ministerial staff and prospective marriage participants.

¹ We understand biological sex to be determined by chromosomes; a man having one "x" and one "y" chromosome and a woman having two "x" chromosomes.

Policy Requirements

1. Both the man and the woman must have lived consistent Christian lives of worship, growth, giving and outreach for at least one year before applying to wed at TMC.
2. Remarriages after divorce will be performed no sooner than one year from the time of the separation or divorce is finalized to help ensure the time needed for healing and possible reconciliation.
3. The couple must participate in pre-marital counseling or marriage preparation course approved by TMC leadership.
4. A wedding application should be submitted at least three months in advance to allow time to reserve your chosen date on the church calendar and allow adequate time for pre-marital counseling.
5. Outside ministers may participate in wedding ceremonies upon approval by TMC leadership.

Exceptions to these policy requirements may be considered by the leadership of TMC.

Facilities Use

1. The church may be decorated for the wedding. No decorations may leave marks, holes or coloring on walls, furniture or equipment.
2. All decorations are to be removed from the church following the wedding ceremony. The church must be restored prior to the next scheduled church event.
3. The wedding couple is responsible for making arrangements for set up, decorations, clean-up and restoration of the church facility with the wedding coordinator.
4. The church Facilities Team must be contacted to assist and supervise clean-up.
5. Only contained candles are permitted for wedding ceremonies.
6. Unattached furniture may be moved and replaced to its original position under the guidance of the wedding coordinator.
7. The wedding coordinator should be notified in advance of decoration times, rehearsal times and wedding party arrival times to ensure that the building is unlocked.

MUSIC

The marriage ceremony should glorify God. This is true in any music that is used. All music, tapes, CD's, etc. must be submitted to TMC leadership for approval no later than thirty days prior to the ceremony. Any musicians, vocal or instrumental, other than TMC personnel, must also be approved. This also applies to receptions held at the church.

APPAREL

The attire of the participants must be modest and in no way diminish worship or the focus on God during this special time.

RECEPTION

It is the position of TMC that wedding receptions for believers should honor God in purpose and action. For this reason, no receptions held on church property will include the use of intoxicating beverages or any form of activity which dishonors our Lord Jesus Christ.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. Rice, birdseed, confetti, etc. may not be thrown inside the church building.
2. Smoking is not permitted in the church building.
3. Alcoholic beverages in any form are not to be served, consumed or allowed on church property.
4. Any damages to church property should be reported to the wedding coordinator.
5. Dressing rooms will be provided as needed. These rooms must be restored to their original condition use after the wedding.
6. All personal items must be removed after the wedding ceremony.
7. The wedding couple must make arrangements with the wedding coordinator for any audio or video equipment needs. Only approved technicians from TMC will be permitted to operate the equipment.
8. No fireworks of any kind may be used in TMC facilities or on grounds.