

Wedding and Marriage Policy

The purpose of this church in regard to weddings and marriage is to establish stable Christian homes where Christ is honored as head of the home. The following policies are established toward that end.

We are happy for you as you prepare for marriage. Marriage is a wonderful idea from the mind of God Himself. The ideal marriage completes a man and a woman by making them one. It is designed to reflect the relationship of Jesus Christ and the Church. Often times, however, marriages fall short of the ideal. We, at the Waushara Community Church, are committed to doing everything we can to help you establish a stable Christian home where Christ is honored.

- 1. Weddings will only be conducted for those who have Demonstrated the maturity and compatibility to have a stable relationship that honors Christ.**
- 2. In general, no wedding will be conducted sooner than three months after the first conference with the pastor unless wisdom would warrant an exception.**
- 3. A minimum of six to eight hours of counseling sessions (including a marriage inventory and assigned homework) shall be required with the pastor or appointed leader. The date for the wedding may not be set before the pastor feels this will be a successful marriage. A follow-up session will be scheduled six to nine months following the wedding. For couples from this church, but not currently residing in the area, counseling may be arranged with an approved pastor or Christian counselor. He/she shall then certify in writing that the couple has had the required counseling and is adequately prepared and suitable for marriage.**

- 2. The pastor will not knowingly conduct a wedding between a Christian and a non-Christian.**
- 3. The pastor will not knowingly conduct a wedding for a couple living together or sexually active unless they agree to separate and keep sexually pure until the wedding. This is to demonstrate genuine Christian life as referenced in number 1 above and prepare for establishing a stable Christian home.**
- 4. A person or couple who is (are) an integral part of this church fellowship and who becomes pregnant prior to marriage shall be subject to church discipline, the object of which is restoration to complete fellowship with God and the Church. A wedding in the church would only be considered if restoration were successful as approved by the Elders.**
- 5. A divorced party(s) wishing to be married must give sufficient information to the pastor to determine that the divorce was either prior to Christian conversion or justified on the ground of adultery or desertion according to Scripture. Matt. 5:31; 1 Cor. 7:12 - 16; Matt. 19:1 - 9; II Cor. 5:17.**
- 6. Couples wishing to use the church building for a wedding to be conducted by another pastor must generally meet the about guidelines and pay whatever rental fee shall be established by the Board of the Church.**

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7. Questions related to the above may be directed to the pastor and requests for exceptions must be approved by the elders of the church.

Marriage is designed by God for one man and one woman for life. It is an honorable and wonderful relationship. Marriage may, however, become the source of great pain. That pain is almost always shared by more than just the couple (e.g. children, parents, friends). It is the intent of the about items to honor the Lord Jesus Christ and to offer you the best possible preparation for a marriage that will last a lifetime. May the Lord Bless you as you seek to follow His direction in this most meaningful and important step.

There is a \$35.00 fee for materials and possibly an additional fee of \$25.00 for books.

WAUSHARA COMMUNITY CHURCH

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P.O. Box 1139
Wautoma, WI 54982
(920) 787-7148