

WEDDING POLICY MANUAL



*Harrison Christian Church
2517 Browns Mill Rd.
Johnson City, TN 37604
423-282-4616*



Harrison Christian Church

“Connecting People to Jesus, to One Another and to the Community”

Our thoughts and guidelines concerning weddings at the Harrison Christian Church

Senior Minister

Brian O. Powell
brian@harrisonchurch.com

Youth & Family Minister

Kelly Mooney
kelly@harrisonchurch.com

Music Minister

Jeff Miller
jdmiller@milligan.edu

Parish Nurse

Kim Sell

Secretary

Carolyn Sell
office@harrisonchurch.com

Board of Elders

Joe Payne
Jim Sell
elders@harrisonchurch.com

2517 Browns Mill Rd.
Johnson City, TN 37604
(423)282-4616
www.harrisonchurch.com
Visit us on Facebook

Marriage is a wonderful thing. It is our desire that your marriage be the best it can possibly be, and all that God intends it to be.

God created man and woman and from the beginning intended that they be joined in marriage so that each might give what the other lacked alone. Since God designed the marriage relationship, it makes sense that He knows best how to build a happy marriage.

As we read God’s Word, we are able to discern basic principles, which must be understood and applied if we hope to experience joy and fulfillment in marriage. Ignoring these principles will result in frustration and possible failure in the marriage relationship.

Because we are committed to building strong Biblical marriages at Harrison Christian Church, we want to share the following guidelines listed on the next few pages. The purpose is not to condemn or reject anyone, but to unashamedly hold up God’s standard for marriage.

Serving The Savior,

The Leadership of the Harrison Christian Church

Harrison Christian Church

(Marriage Policy Adopted July 2014)

- 1.) We require a **minimum of three** months of pre-marital preparation in order that couples who desire to be married at the Harrison Christian Church can participate in three pre-marital counseling sessions offered by the church.
- 2.) Couples being married at the Harrison Christian Church must have surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and must be committed to establishing a Christian home.
- 3.) Because the Bible teaches that marriage is to be the holy and sacred union between one man and one woman only, same sex couples will NOT be considered for marriage at the Harrison Christian Church in or under any circumstance.
- 3.) Divorced persons may be considered for marriage at the Harrison Christian Church, should they meet one of the Biblical criteria:
 - Former spouse is deceased (Romans 7:2 & 1 Corinthians 7:39)
 - Divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17)
 - Divorce occurred because of sexual unfaithfulness by spouse (Matthew 19:3-9)
 - Desertion by an unbelieving spouse (1 Corinthians 7:15)
 - Former spouse initiated divorce and has remarried (Romans 7:3)(No remarriages after divorce of a spouse will be performed until at least one year has passed from the time the divorce is finalized.)
- 4.) In case of premarital pregnancy, the marriage may or may not be performed depending on the maturity of the persons involved and their willingness to move forward in God's grace.
- 5.) Couples must remain celibate and not live together at any time prior to the wedding ceremony. The minister will not perform the ceremony if the couple is living at the same address.
- 6.) No minister will marry a couple at the Harrison Christian Church if any minister on Harrison's staff has refused to perform the ceremony based on spiritual reasons.
- 7.) Any ministers other than the staff at the Harrison Christian Church who are asked to perform wedding ceremonies at Harrison will be advised of this policy and are required to abide by it.
- 8.) We will not marry a couple if either person is under the influence of alcohol or drugs (other than those prescribed by a doctor) before or during the rehearsal and/or wedding.

If you desire to pursue your plans for a wedding at the Harrison Christian Church after reading our policy, please sign, date, and return the following:

(Bride) _____ (Date) _____
I am in agreement with this policy and will abide by it.

Are you a member at HCC? _____

(Groom) _____ (Date) _____
I am in agreement with this policy and will abide by it.

Are you a member at HCC? _____

Date of Wedding: _____ Time: _____

Minister of Choice: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Harrison Christian Church

(Wedding Financial Agreement Adopted July 2014)

Listed below are the fees charged in conjunction with weddings in addition to a \$100.00 security deposit. Building and custodial fees are payable to the Harrison Christian Church and due in the church office two weeks prior to the wedding. Honorariums for the minister, organist/pianist, and sound technician, are to be given directly to the individuals involved on or before the rehearsal.

SCHEDULE OF FEES

| Building Use | Non-Member | Member | Your Cost |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------|-----------|
| Worship Center/Sanctuary | \$100 | N/C | _____ |
| Use of Fellowship Hall/Kitchen | \$200 | N/C | _____ |

- You assume all risk of accident, incident, loss, cost or damage which may result or arise while using the building or facilities, and release the Harrison Christian Church and its trustees, Elders, Ministers, employees, and volunteers from all liability due to accidents, incidents, loss, cost, or damage.
- No classrooms, nurseries, or library to be used without elders/trustees approval.
- You are responsible for setting up and tearing down tables/chairs.
- Use of kitchen must be specified. Guidelines are in place for kitchen use and should be closely observed.
- Building to be cleaned, returned to the condition it was found, and vacated by 10:00 pm. Failure to do so may result in loss of deposit.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Custodian | \$75 | \$50 | _____ |
| HCC Minister | \$125 | \$100 | _____ |
| Sound System/Technician | \$50 | \$25 | _____ |
| Organist/Pianist | \$35 | \$25 | _____ |
| YOUR TOTAL COST: | | | _____ |

The above fees and content of this policy manual were approved by the Harrison Christian Church board of elders on July 29, 2014

We are in agreement with the Financial Arrangements and will abide by it.

(Bride) _____ (Date) _____

(Groom) _____ (Date) _____

HOW TO SCHEDULE A WEDDING AT THE HARRISON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

- Please read the contents of this Wedding Policy Manual so that you will be thoroughly acquainted with our wedding policies.
 - The wedding date must be confirmed in our office at least 4 months prior to the date of your wedding.
 - The Marriage Policy Agreement and Financial Agreement must be signed and returned to the church office within 2 weeks of receiving this packet.
 - There will be only one wedding scheduled per weekend at the Harrison Christian Church.
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POLICY GUIDELINES FOR WEDDING CEREMONIES AT THE HARRISON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

- 1.) The bride and groom must be born again Christians.
- 2.) We require a **minimum of three** months of pre-marital preparation in order that couples who desire to be married at the Harrison Christian Church can participate in three pre-marital counseling sessions offered by the church staff.
- 3.) We ask that all of your music be cleared with the minister prior to rehearsal, because we view the wedding as a worship experience.
- 4.) **NO** smoking is permitted on church premises. There will be **NO** consumption of alcohol or drugs on the church premises. If alcohol/drugs is brought to the church property, the minister will call off the rehearsal, wedding, and/or reception. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to inform the wedding party of this policy.
- 5.) Food and beverages are to remain in the Fellowship Hall/Kitchen areas.
- 6.) **NO** wedding furnishings are furnished by the church. Following the wedding, the wedding party is responsible for removing all decorations, rented items, clothing, and personal effects.
- 7.) Sanctuary furnishings may be moved only with the assistance of church personnel.
- 8.) **NO** birdseed or rice may be thrown indoors or outdoors upon final departure. The minister can suggest other alternatives.
- 9.) The bride and groom are responsible for securing a soloist, pianist, musicians, and organist. A list of available church musicians will be provided by the minister upon request; and he will make arrangements for a sound technician. Only church personnel will have access to the audio/video equipment.
- 10.) The wedding party assumes **TOTAL** responsibility for damages accrued to the building and property during the time of rehearsal, wedding, and reception.

**POLICY GUIDELINES FOR WEDDING RECEPTIONS AT
THE HARRISON CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

- 1.) Food or beverages are not to be taken out of the reception area.
- 2.) The wedding party must furnish ALL decorations, accessories, food, punch, and cake. Please take all leftover food and drinks away from the church after the reception.
- 3.) **NO** alcoholic beverages are allowed. This includes champagne intended for use in the punch.
- 4.) The church has punch bowls and serving accessories that the wedding party may use. These items must be cleaned following the reception and put away in their proper place.
- 5.) Tables and chairs used for the reception must be set up and taken down by the wedding party