



## Wedding Policy

Due to the importance and sacredness of marriage, the risks to marriage in our society, and the responsibility of the church to preserve and strengthen marriages, the following policy for weddings officiated by ministers at Friendship has been adopted by the leadership team.

1. Spiritual Compatibility – Both individuals must be believers in Jesus Christ and must evidence the desire to serve Him in their lives and marriage (II Cor. 6:14).

2. Waiting Period – The services of the minister(s) must be requested with adequate time for premarital counseling before the wedding date. Because a number of couples call off their wedding plans during premarital counseling, this policy gives the couple and minister(s) the ability to complete premarital counseling and test the quality of the relationship before wedding invitations are mailed.

3. Marriage Preparation Counseling – The couple must consent to participate in six premarital counseling sessions plus any other sessions suggested by the minister(s). This also includes the commitment to complete assigned homework, books and tapes.

4. Parental Approval – Ideally, the marriage should be approved by both sets of parents.

5. Right of Refusal – The minister(s) reserves the right to refuse to marry the couple if from the counseling sessions it is apparent that the marriage is not advisable.

6. Moral Expectations – As 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 addition, the couple will agree not to live together until after the wedding. In cases where sexual intimacy has already occurred, the couple shall agree to cease such activity until after the wedding.

7. Divorce and Remarriage – In the case of a previous marriage that ended in divorce, the minister(s) shall apply the appropriate Scripture in determining if remarriage is permissible. Because marriage is sacred, we will not remarry a divorced person if there are no scriptural grounds. We believe marriage is a life-long commitment to one another. We believe the remarriage of a divorced person is only possible when 1) the divorce occurred when one's mate was guilty of adultery through sexual immorality (Mat. 19:9; 5:32), 2) the divorce occurred when there was desertion of the marriage by one's mate and there is no hope of reconciliation (1 Cor. 7:15). We will make every effort to encourage reconciliation in a marriage.

8. Extenuating Circumstances – If a couple feels that extenuating circumstances merit an exception to these policies, this request may be brought to the elders for consideration.

We, the undersigned, understand and will abide by the above policy in regard to our wedding.

Signatures: (Groom) \_\_\_\_\_

(Bride) \_\_\_\_\_

Officiant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_