

**WEDDINGS AT FELLOWSHIP CHAPEL**

Fellowship Chapel  
12875 Fourteen Mile Road  
Sterling Heights, MI 48312  
Phone: 810-264-4692

We at Fellowship Chapel believe that Marriage is ordained of God and is to be entered into reverently and in the proper fear of God. The ceremony that joins together a man and a woman is more than a mere formality of words. It is the exchange of hearts, the pledging of lives, the commitment of faith and love, and the making of sacred vows before men and before God. Since we sincerely believe this, we set down the following guidelines for weddings at Fellowship Chapel.

I. PASTORAL INTERVIEW

All persons who wish to be married in the church facilities must appear before the Pastor for an interview before the use of the facilities for the wedding can be approved. During the interview, the Pastor will hear the testimony of the prospective bride and groom concerning their personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. He will also discern from them whether they are willing to comply with the stated requirements for using the church facilities for a wedding, what facilities will be used, what dates are being requested, what type of wedding is desired, what minister(s) the couple wishes to officiate at the ceremony, and how well prepared the couple is for marriage.

II. STATED REQUIREMENTS FOR USING CHURCH FACILITIES

- A. Fellowship Chapel is dedicated to the glory of God. We believe that wedding vows are sacred promises made in the presence of the Lord Himself. Therefore, only those couples where both the prospective bride and groom profess personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior will be permitted to use the church facilities.
- B. Remarriage of those who have been previously divorced will be permitted only on grounds made clear in God's Word, the Bible. (See Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-10; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16.)
- C. All persons who wish to be married at Fellowship Chapel must complete five premarital counseling sessions with the Pastor or one of our qualified premarital counselors.
- D. Before a couple can be considered for marriage in our church, at least one of the parties must be a regular attender (3 out of 4 Sundays per month) for a minimum of six months. Exceptions to this will be considered only upon recommendation of the Pastor and approval of the Elder Board of the church.

### III. ELDER BOARD APPROVAL

All weddings to be held in the church facilities must be approved by the Pastor and the Elder Board. After the couple's interview with the Pastor, he will present their request and a report of the interview to the Elder Board. The Board will then decide whether to permit use of the facilities and for which type of wedding.

### IV. TYPES OF WEDDINGS

- A. The "Open Church" wedding. The entire congregation of Fellowship Chapel is invited in an "Open Church" wedding, either by bulletin notice, pulpit announcement, and/or written invitation.
- B. The "Private" wedding. Friends and relatives only are invited in a "Private" wedding, through written or personal invitation.
- C. The "Family" wedding. Members of the immediate family only are present in a "Family" wedding, being invited personally or by written invitation.

### RESTRICTIONS

- A. Weddings should be scheduled for times which are not in conflict with regular worship services or activities. Exceptions require prior approval of the Pastor and Elder Board.
- B. In the case of pregnancy or known immorality on the part of the parties to be married, only a family or private wedding will be allowed, based on the discretion of the Elders of the Church. Couples who are living together (in the same residence) must discontinue doing so until marriage (Prov. 4:20-27; I Thess. 4:1-8, 5:21-24; I Cor. 5:1-13, 6:9-11 & 18-20; Gal. 5:16-19; Eph. 5:1-12).
- C. Parties wishing to use the services of an outside minister may do so after consultation and approval from the Pastor and Elder Board.
- D. No smoking, consumption of alcoholic beverages or dancing will be permitted in the church facilities.

### VI. USE OF CHURCH FACILITIES

- A. When neither the prospective bride nor groom nor their parents are members of Fellowship Chapel, a fee determined by the Trustees of the Church will be paid to Fellowship for the use of the facilities.
- B. The wedding party will engage the services of a janitor at a set fee for set-up and clean-up.

### VII. YOUR NEXT STEP

After reading this, you may call the church secretary if you wish to arrange an interview with the Pastor.