



Wedding Guidelines

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! Your engagement is an important time and we are excited that you have chosen us to be a part of your engagement process, your ceremony and future marriage. In this packet, there are a few things that will help you as you begin this process.

At Lake Forest, we begin with the proposition that marriage is a holy institution, ordained by God from the beginning in the garden. Its purpose, its sanctity and the depth of the required commitment were reemphasized by Jesus Christ, who instructed that the two, who become one flesh, are never supposed to be divorced, and that adultery is a destructive sin to the marriage relationship. We believe that Christian marriage is a commitment *between one man and one woman*, founded on your commitment to Jesus Christ. Therefore, those joined in this union are ones who have professed Christ and who are part of His church. We consider that wedding services are worship services before God, conducted in His honor according to His Word. We seek to please Him in these services, both for the joy of worshipping Him in celebration, and in order to be able to ask Him to bless the marriage.

This belief plays an important role in our premarital process. We feel that marriage counseling is a necessary step and we require your participation in counseling prior to your marriage ceremony. Talk to a Lake Forest pastor for a counseling referral (call 704.948.3232) or to check to see if your officiating pastor will be able to conduct your counseling.

When choosing a wedding date, please keep in mind:

- No more than one wedding will be scheduled on a given day.
- No weddings will be scheduled on New Year's Day, Easter Weekend, House of Blues series, Thanksgiving Weekend, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. During the month of December, weddings will not be held at Lake Forest but an officiating pastor can commit to an off-site wedding, if his schedule permits.
- Scheduled Church activities generally cannot be changed to accommodate weddings.

Minister

A Pastor on staff at Lake Forest will normally preside over a wedding in the Church. However, if approved by the Session, a minister from outside Lake Forest may perform the wedding. If this is the case, please notify the Wedding Facilitator as soon as possible. She will send the outside minister a copy of these guidelines. We recommend including an honorarium to the pastor as compensation for their time with your wedding.