

# WEDDINGS AT FIRST REFORMED CHURCH





# What is Christian Marriage?

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Christian marriage is a joyful covenant between a man and a woman, in which they proclaim, before God and human witnesses, their commitment to live together in spiritual, physical, and material unity. In it they acknowledge that the great love God has shown for each of them in Jesus Christ, enables them to love each other. They affirm that God's gracious presence and abiding power are needed for them to keep their vows, to continue to live in love, and to be faithful servants of Jesus Christ in this world.

# What Are We Asking from the Pastor?

The question that most couples are asking when they speak to their pastor or local minister is “Would you officiate and thus legalize our forthcoming marriage?” However, from the pastor’s perspective, what is a couple asking that they don’t know they are asking?

- Would you prepare us for a Christian marriage and officiate for us a Christian marriage ceremony, even though we may not know all that is involved in having a Christian marriage nor if we even should call ourselves Christians, but we aspire to that ideal?
- Would you ask us about our knowledge of God, Jesus Christ and our relationship with him and our religious background? We may know a lot or a little. We may be trusting and following Jesus or not at all, but we know you want to help us to know and grow and that you will be graceful with us as we listen.
- Could you tell us about what makes Christian marriage distinct and how it reflects Jesus’ love and relationship with His people, the Church?
- Could you ask us hard questions about our relationship? We know that they are intended to help us grow in emotional intimacy together.
- Would you please ask us about our prior intimate relationships – either married or not married? We know you will be graceful and truthful with us. Because we need to know the spiritual impact these past relationships have relative to the Lord, upon our former partners, each other, the children from these relationships and our anticipated marriage. Will you tell us how to move forward with the Lord and deal with the past?
- Will you spend 12-15 hours outside of your regular daily schedule with us over the next 6 months to prepare us for marriage, plan the ceremony, rehearse the ceremony and lead our marriage ceremony?
- Will you share with us about the truth and grace of God in Jesus Christ that will be an example of how to be graceful and truthful with one another so that we can stay married “till death do you part?”
- Will you hold us accountable, should we have already begun a physical relationship, that we will not continue until our wedding night and if needed, help us find separate places to live?
- Will you keep in contact with us after our marriage and check in about how our new marriage is doing?

# Next Steps

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1. Setup an initial meeting with Pastor Paul to sign a copy of the Marriage Guidelines and talk through the content and process of marriage counseling.
2. Contact Wendy Peelen in the church office to put your wedding date on the church calendar and sign a copy of the Church Facilities Agreement.
3. Schedule your first counseling session with Pastor Paul and receive your workbook.



# Contact Us

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## Phone

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## Website

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## Email

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