

BROOKSIDE  WEDDINGS

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# Congratulations!

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Congratulations on your recent engagement! This is an exciting time in your life; we rejoice that you have decided to enter into the covenant of marriage and are eager to see what God will do through your lives together.

The material you'll find in this packet is intended to help equip you in certain ways as you move towards your wedding day:

- (1) We'll provide you with some tools and information you'll find helpful as you prepare for the wedding day itself. This information includes details on cost, procedures regarding facility use & ceremony set-up, and much more.
- (2) We also want to prepare you for a lifetime of God-honoring marriage by highlighting and reinforcing God's view of marriage. At Brookside we believe that marriage is a good gift given to us by God. Since God is ultimately the giver of marriage, this means He has certain designs for marriage that we want to keep in mind and follow.

Because we want to follow God's design for marriage, we ask that couples who are married at Brookside and/or by a Brookside pastor sign a Pre-Marital Covenant showing their commitment to head into marriage in a way that honors God (a sample is available on page 6 of this packet). Also, to help couples understand and appreciate God's plan for marriage, our pre-marital coaching program is required of all couples that are married at Brookside and/or by a Brookside pastor.

**Please look this packet over thoroughly** as you consider including Brookside in your wedding plans. If you are requesting the Brookside Worship Center and/or a Brookside pastor for your wedding, your next step is to contact Peggy King or Pam Cates (e-mail addresses are included below) and schedule a time to meet with a Brookside pastor. This meeting with a pastor is required before we are able to put your wedding date on our calendar.

If you do NOT need the Brookside Worship Center OR a Brookside pastor to officiate, but if you are still interested in going through the 6-session Pre-Marital Coaching program, contact Peggy King or Pam Cates (e-mail address are included below) to begin the process of getting plugged into that ministry.

If you have any questions at all regarding this, or any other pre-marital or wedding information, please contact Peggy King or Pam Cates at the Brookside Church office: 895.1484 or [pking@brookside.net](mailto:pking@brookside.net) or [pcates@brookside.net](mailto:pcates@brookside.net).

Again, congratulations to you both!

Tim Wiebe  
LIFECare Pastor  
Brookside Church

# Before We Go Any Further...

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(information requested from ALL couples getting married at Brookside Church, by a Brookside pastor, or working through the pre-marital coaching program)

To help us keep accurate records of couples involved in our Marriage and Wedding ministries, we ask that you provide us with the following information. If possible, the best way to get us this information is through e-mail, sending your responses to Peggy King at pking@brookside.net.

Groom's full name (first & last): \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's primary phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's primary e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's full name (first & last): \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's primary phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's primary e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Bride's mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Bride's Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding wish date & time: \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal wish date & time: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding location: \_\_\_\_\_

Reception location: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you requesting that a Brookside pastor officiate the wedding? \_\_\_\_\_

(Unless you have made specific arrangements with a particular pastor to perform your wedding, Tim Wiebe will often be the officiating pastor.)

Anticipated mailing address after the wedding:

\_\_\_\_\_

# Pre-Marital Coaching

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**(REQUIRED of those getting married at Brookside Church and/or by a Brookside pastor;  
AVAILABLE for all interested regular attenders or couples without a church family)**

Tim Wiebe, Pastor of LIFEcare Ministries, provides oversight to Brookside's Marriage Ministry and its team of trained and caring volunteer mentors. These mentors work with all couples that get married at Brookside or by a Brookside pastor. This ministry is also available to other Brookside regular attenders who may not be getting married at Brookside or by a Brookside pastor, but who nevertheless want to lay a strong foundation for their marriage. Additionally, we also open our pre-marital coaching ministry to engaged couples who do not have a church family. To get connected with this ministry, we ask that you contact Peggy King (pking@brookside.net) at the church office **at least 6 months prior to your wedding date**. This will allow a comfortable amount of time to get you connected with a volunteer coach couple and work through the 6 sessions of material with them.

Once you contact the church office, each of you will be asked to fill out something we call a "Pre-Marital Groundwork Deck" of information. We ask that you each fill out these decks individually and plan on allowing about 90 minutes to complete them. We then use this information to help us come alongside you and get to know you better for our mentoring. Please know that all the material is confidential.

When completed, you can drop these decks of information off at the church office – please leave them with Peggy King or one of the receptionists. At this time, you will also be given two books – one for each of you – titled *Preparing for Marriage*. These books will lay the foundation for your 6 sessions of pre-marital coaching. You will also be given an outline of the "homework" you'll be asked to complete in preparation for each session. To help cover the cost of these two books, you'll be asked to pay \$24.00 (checks payable to Brookside Church).

We will then work from our end to get you paired with one of our pre-marital coach couples. Knowing that sending and replying to e-mails or phone calls can take a few days, we ask that you allow 10-14 days for the process of connecting you with a coach couple to take place, once we get your completed Groundwork decks. Usually, by the end of 2 weeks (or before) you should be receiving an initial contact – by phone or e-mail – from a couple introducing themselves as your premarital coaches. From there, you can coordinate times and places to meet and work through the premarital coaching.

# Sample Pre-Marital Covenant

(all couples married at Brookside Church and/or by a Brookside pastor must agree to these commitments)

Congratulations! You have entered into a relationship that allows you to experience community with another individual on every level possible. Marriage will provide for you a chance to have a friend who will support, challenge, love, and enjoy you.

The purpose of Brookside Church's wedding ministry is to lead those getting married toward passion for God and compassion for people – both as individuals and as a couple, both within their marriage and out into other spheres of influence as well.

Weddings are a time when a number of promises are made before friends, family members, and most importantly, before the Lord himself. With the fulfillment of those promises in mind, we ask that you prayerfully consider making the following commitment in preparation for your marriage, as you strive to glorify God in this new, exciting relationship.

## As a marrying couple we commit to...

### 1. **Creating God-honoring relationships that will allow us to pursue God's will for our marriage. We will do this by...**

- a. Completing 2 meetings with the marrying pastor (one before and one after the program is completed and before our wedding).
- b. Completing the 6-sessions with our pre-marital mentors

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:24-25).*

### 2. **Growing in our understanding of a God-honoring marriage by...**

- a. Joining a Brookside LIFEgroup within the first year of marriage.
- b. Consider attending the budget course offered by Brookside Church (Financial Peace University).

*If you turn your ear to wisdom and apply your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding (Proverbs 2:2-6).*

### 3. **Maintaining purity within our sexual relationship.**

- a. Committing ourselves to sexual abstinence

*For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own body in sanctification and honor (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4).*

- b. Refraining from living together (please see pages 7-9 for a more complete explanation)

*But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. (Ephesians 5:3)*

### 4. **We confess that we are in agreement on spiritual issues and will strive to grow together in Christ-likeness.**

MARRYING COUPLE:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PASTOR: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Living Together Before Marriage

*First things first: We're glad you're interested enough in Brookside Church that you've dug deeply enough to find (and read) this paper on couples who are living together before marriage. Two factors that often attract people to Brookside are (1) our care for all people who walk through our doors, and (2) our reliance on God's Word as the source of truth. Our prayer is that the tone of this paper communicates both of those things: our care for you as a couple and our trust in and dependence on God's Word. We're available to further discuss this paper in person if you've got any follow-up questions or would like clarification on anything brought up here.*

At Brookside, we are aware of the American cultural reality that many couples choose to live together before marriage. This has become so prominent that many of these cohabiting couples are unaware of God's design for marriage as a covenant - a special relationship in which a man and woman become one flesh (Genesis 2:21-24) and provide a glimpse (however partial or imperfect) of Jesus' relationship with His bride, the Church (Ephesians 5:22-33). It is only within this covenant of marriage that couples are to be united as one flesh (Genesis 2:21-24). As a church, we want to help couples see that this design by God for marriage is best, and is worth embracing. It is because of this teaching on what marriage is biblically that our common practice is to graciously, yet firmly, ask cohabiting couples to move apart until their wedding day.

A primary reason for our arrival at this position is that cohabitation offers "one flesh-ness" in ways that are outside of God's design. Pre-marital sex is one obvious example of this substitute "one flesh-ness" among couples living together (see 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 and Hebrews 13:4, for example). But cohabitation also poses as "one flesh-ness" in other ways that are also significant: paying the bills together, saying good night before drifting off to sleep, sharing the responsibilities of running a household, and more. In all of these ways, cohabitation offers an alternative to God's intended design of *marriage* being the context in which the one-flesh union is established and cultivated.

Potential dangers are presented in this substitute "one flesh-ness" offered by living together. There is the real possibility that, once married, couples will have a difficult time discovering what biblical, married "one flesh-ness" looks like in terms of serving one another and sharing each others' lives in the covenant of marriage. Or, having already satisfied desires for fulfillment outside of the marriage bond, the possibility exists that a spouse may do so again, either emotionally or physically. Additionally, cohabitation can undermine the commitment that should undergird marriage, and can steal the joy of discovering parts of your spouse that were a mystery while you were dating and engaged.

Gratefully, this isn't the final word, and - by the grace of God - you can take steps to ensure that these possibilities aren't realized. Whatever your history, we believe that God eagerly responds to couples who become aware of His design for marriage, and who make the changes necessary in their relationship to honor His intentions. By the grace of God, your future can be built on a godly foundation that reflects God's design.

And ultimately, we find it important to help couples understand that just as God's design for marriage carries implications BEFORE your wedding, so too God's design for marriage carries implications AFTER your wedding as well:

- *Before your wedding*, the biblical call to sexual purity takes the shape of abstinence until you are united in marriage; *after your wedding* this same biblical call to sexual purity still applies, but now takes the shape of exclusive faithfulness to your spouse physically and emotionally.

- *Before your wedding*, the biblical teaching that a married couple is one flesh takes the shape of not uniting as one flesh (either physically or coming together in other ways to share a home) until after your vows are said; *after your wedding* this teaching about one flesh should manifest itself in tangible ways as well (both physically and uniting in all the other ways that go along with two lives becoming one: financially, relationally, etc.).

If we can help couples lean into God's design as they prepare for marriage, we believe they're better equipped to continue honoring God's design for marriage after their wedding; on the flip side, our concern is that dating or engaged couples who are resistant to following God's design may carry that resistance into their marriage.

At Brookside, our goal is both to honor God's design for marriage and help couples start their marriage with as strong of a foundation as possible. Because of these reasons, please know that if you are living together before marriage, Brookside will graciously ask you to move apart until your wedding day, if you wish to be married by a Brookside pastor.

This decision will be inconvenient and will require sacrifice, but we strongly believe that it will set Christian couples on a new trajectory to enter into marriage with as strong and godly of a foundation as possible, as they walk forward in obedience to God's design for marriage. We believe that inconvenience - however large it seems - should never interrupt our willingness to obey God and His Word. We also believe that it is God who gives us strength to walk in line with Him, and that He will continue to provide strength and grace that surpass any levels of inconvenience.

While we can't remove all of the inconveniences you'll encounter if you decide to move apart, at Brookside we nevertheless want to make this transition as accessible as possible. Therefore, we'll help you brainstorm ideas for how to make this transition, by identifying places of temporary residence (for e.g., the couch of a close friend or family member, perhaps a spare room in the home of a Brookside family, etc.), by walking with you until your wedding through pre-marital coaching, and by praying for resolve, strength, and joy as you walk ahead in obedience.

**If you're interested in additional study on this topic, here are some places we'd point you:**

Andreas J. Kostenberger, *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*, 2nd ed. Crossway, 2010.

Mike and Harriet McManus, *Living Together: Myths, Risks and Answers*. Howard Books, 2008.

Mark Regnerus and Jeremy Uecker, *Premarital Sex in America: How Young Americans Meet, Mate, and Think About Marrying*. Oxford University Press, 2011.

Glenn T. Stanton, *The Ring Makes All the Difference: The Hidden Consequences of Cohabitation and the Strong Benefits of Marriage*. Moody Publishers, 2011.

Glenn Stanton, interviewed by Focus on the Family. "Cohabitation vs. Marriage: Why the Ring Matters." Available online at <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/radio.aspx?ID={B15FED40-8251-467F-AF84-67D38300F36E}> (Last accessed November 2, 2011)

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crafted by Brookside LIFEcare ministries, January 2012



## Scripture verses cited in this paper (verses quoted from the English Standard Version):

### Genesis 2:21-24

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

### Ephesians 5:22-33

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

### 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you.

### Hebrews 13:4a

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled...

# Couples Testimony

(Taken from *The Journey* ~ The Study Bible for Spiritual Thinkers)

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My husband and I have been married for over three years now, and this letter is long overdue. I'm writing to thank the church for insisting that Chris and I move apart after we became Christians. Even though we had been living together for six and a half years and were engaged, the church exhorted us to establish a pattern of purity before getting married. I am so grateful ~ though I never would have predicted I would be! Allow me to explain.

The idea of living apart after such a long time together seemed impossible at first. After all, Chris and I had recently invested in a new house together! Still, the leaders of the church asked us to honor their wishes, even offering to help with the costs of finding a new place to live, if need be. We reluctantly trusted them, thinking that they probably had our best interests in mind. I moved out of the house for the five months that remained before our wedding.

During those five months we discovered a lot of things to be thankful for. First, we had the joy of knowing that we were obeying our church leaders, whom we had really come to admire since we became involved in the church community. Second, our decision to live apart was an immediate public testimony to the transformation that Christ had made in our lives. As it happened, our relationship became a strong, silent witness to three of my siblings about God's view on living together before marriage. Third, we now look at our relationship as if it had two phases ~ before Christ and after Christ. Doing so has allowed us to see many of the negative patterns that we had established before we were married, and has given us a new perspective on our lives together. Sure, during those five months I missed my fiancé, my dog, and my house, but the long-term benefits of our decision far outweigh any short-term inconveniences we experienced.

Being married is a lot different than simply living together, and I'm glad the distinction between the two phases of our relationship has been so clear-cut for me. When we lived together, Chris and I were committed to each other as long as we were in love; now we're in love because we're committed!

While our married life is not perfect, many of the problems we're experiencing are a result of our past life together. I believe that, had we waited to live together until marriage, we would have had greater respect for one another. We would have also learned to negotiate and to resolve our differences more constructively. When we lived together, we approached each conflict as one that might end our relationship. Doing so seriously hampered trust and intimacy in our relationship, and encouraged fantasies about living alone. Now that splitting up is no longer an option for us we face our problems head-on, knowing that our old ways of dealing with them are inappropriate. We want our marriage to be God-glorifying, so we're getting help with our problems and are learning new communication skills.

We believe that marriage is a wonderful part of God's plan for the life of a man and a woman who want to live in a committed relationship. Our experience has shown us that living together before marriage makes the process of making that commitment more difficult, and we're convinced that others who experience the same kinds of problems that we faced will come to the same conclusion that we have. Thank you, once again, for your guidance. With God's help, we'll be able to continue to do our best to honor Him in our marriage.

# Booking Information

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(applicable for those getting married at Brookside Church)

## General Booking Information:

Because of the volume of wedding requests we receive, we require that you, as a couple, are regular Brookside attenders and we ask that you submit your request for the building at least **6 months** in advance of your wedding date. This will not only allow time for us to make preparations, but will also provide time for you to complete the pre-marital program (more on this elsewhere in the packet). Because Brookside understands and values the sacredness of marriage, we've made it our policy to require completion of the pre-marital program before we can firmly book your wedding on our calendar. We are able to hold the date on our calendar after you've met with a Brookside pastor **and** after you have signed our Pre-Marital Covenant (page 6).

## Dates and Times:

We offer Friday evening, Saturday morning and early Saturday afternoon time frames for weddings. On Friday evenings the building needs to be **cleared by 8pm**. On Saturdays, the building needs to be **cleared by 5pm** because of Sunday morning programming. This gives our facilities staff and children's ministry staff time to reset the Worship Center and classrooms for activities on Sunday morning.

## Cancellations:

The Brookside Pastoral Staff and the Brookside Marriage Ministry reserve the right to cancel your wedding if you do not complete the pre-marital program or live in line with your covenant commitments. If cancellation is needed, Brookside will refund 50% of the booking deposit. Likewise, if the couple decides to cancel their wedding they will be refunded 50% of the booking deposit.

## For more information:

For more information or to request that a wedding date be booked, please contact Peggy King or Pam Cates at the church office 402.895.1484 or pking@brookside.net or pcates@brookside.net.

# Facility Details

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(applicable for those getting married at Brookside Church)

## Wedding Coordinator

When you book your wedding at Brookside we provide you with the necessary wedding coordinator to serve as your liaison to the facility management. Any questions, concerns or requests will go through your coordinator. She will also assist the pastor during the rehearsal and ceremony and help things go smoothly. She will be available to meet with you before the wedding to go over the details as they pertain to the facility.

## Wedding Ceremony

For your wedding ceremony we provide our Main Worship Center. The room seats a maximum of 958. However, we understand that is probably more seats than are necessary for your ceremony. For a more intimate atmosphere we use lighting to bring the focus to the center two sections of chairs which seats roughly 400. The following is a list of what we provide for your wedding ceremony at Brookside:

### WORSHIP CENTER SET UP:

- All chairs will be set up.
- The stage will be cleared except for the piano.
- The scrim will be pulled to cover the back end of the stage.
- Wooden communion table for the unity candle upon request.

### SOUND TECHNICIAN

- A sound tech is provided for your ceremony. He or she will arrive 1 hour before your rehearsal to allow your musicians to practice. Also, he or she will arrive 45 minutes before your wedding to make sure everything is ready to go.

### DRESSING ROOMS:

- Two dressing rooms (Bride Room and Groom Room) with mirrors and clothes racks.

## Rows and Aisle

There are 14 rows set up from the front to the back of the aisle and the aisle length is 50ft. You may need this information when you plan decorations for the aisle and order your aisle runner.

# Policies and Guidelines

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(applicable for those getting married at Brookside Church)

## Building Guidelines

- ✓ No smoking inside the building.
- ✓ No alcoholic beverages permitted.
- ✓ Bubbles, rice, glitter or confetti are not permitted inside the building.
- ✓ Birdseed and bubbles may be used outside.
- ✓ No childcare rooms are available for nursery use during weddings.
- ✓ No animals are allowed in the building.
- ✓ Brookside does not rent out rooms for bridal showers.
- ✓ Brookside does not rent out space for receptions.
- ✓ All food/beverages are restricted to "Volunteer Central" and/or Room 130 (Bride's Room).

## Decorating Guidelines

- ✓ The Wedding Coordinator will review decorating plans with you.
- ✓ Besides the unity candle and candelabras no open flame candles are allowed in the Worship Center. Candle holders must come above the flame.
- ✓ No candles are allowed on the piano.
- ✓ If wedding is booked during the month of December set stage décor will remain on the stage.

## Photography

We strongly recommend that you take your photographs prior to the ceremony so that your guests are not kept waiting between the wedding and the reception. Your photographs should begin 2-3 hours before your ceremony begins. Be sure to inform everyone you would like to involve in the photos what time they should arrive. Make sure your friends and family take pictures only after the photographer is finished. This ensures that the photographer will finish shooting and get all the desired shots.

## Video Technician

The videographer should arrive at least 90 minutes before the ceremony.

## Flowers

Arrange with your florist to deliver the flowers at least 3 hours before your ceremony begins.

## Set up and Clean-up

The Wedding Coordinator will arrange a time with you to bring the decorations and accessories into the building.

For Friday weddings, the church is available at 9am for set-up and deliveries. For Saturday weddings, the church will be available no more than three hours prior to the wedding ceremony unless special arrangements have been made with the Wedding Coordinator.

**The wedding party must remove all non-church items that were brought into the church, including the Bride and Groom rooms, before leaving the church. For Saturday weddings, this must be done and the building must be cleared by 5pm.**

# Pricing and Payment Information

(please read this entire page whether you are using the Brookside facility for your ceremony or not – certain fees may apply even if you are not using the facility)

## Costs directly associated with using the Brookside facility:

Wedding Coordinator	\$200.00
Sound Tech	\$ 75.00
Facility Charge	<u>\$260.00</u>
TOTAL:	\$535.00
PAYMENT INFO:	Payment is due upon booking

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## Other costs to factor in:

(These fees may apply whether you are using the Brookside facility for your ceremony or not. If these fees apply, please pay each of the following with separate checks)

**DAMAGE DEPOSIT:** A damage deposit of \$100 is required upon booking a wedding at Brookside. It will be returned if premises and items used are satisfactorily maintained. If damages exceed \$100 an additional fee for the amount of the damages will be allocated. (Please make checks out to Brookside Church.)

**PRE-MARITAL SUPPLIES:** \$24.00 for two (2) *Preparing for Marriage* workbooks that will help shape the time you spend with your pre-marital coaches. (Please make checks out Brookside Church.)

**OFFICIATING PASTOR:** If you're using a Brookside pastor, payment for services is \$200.00. Please make this check out to the pastor directly, as a separate payment. You can give this separate check to Peggy King at any time before the wedding or to the officiating pastor at the rehearsal dinner. (If you are using Brookside's facilities for your ceremony, you will be asked if you want to pay this fee when you provide payment for booking the facility.) You will be invoiced if payment has not been received by the rehearsal or unless other arrangements have been made.

**MUSICIANS:** If you have asked any musicians at Brookside to play for your wedding, including the worship pastor, you are responsible for working out payment with them directly.

\*\*Additional travel expenses will be incurred for weddings outside the Metro Omaha Area.\*\*

# Booking Contract

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We have read and fully understand the policies, guidelines and requirements of booking our wedding at Brookside Church as stated in this packet and spoken to us by the Brookside Wedding Ministry staff. By signing this contract we agree to these policies, terms and conditions and are responsible for making our wedding party aware of them.

Bride (printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride (signature): \_\_\_\_\_

Groom (printed): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom (signature): \_\_\_\_\_

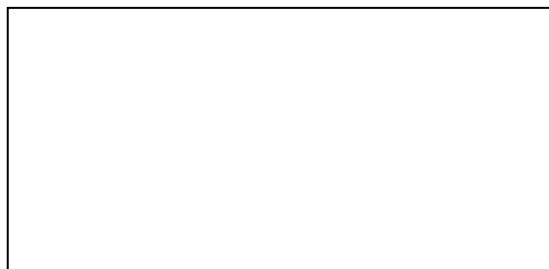
Date of wedding: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of wedding: \_\_\_\_\_



Brookside Wedding Contact:

Peggy King

[pking@brookside.net](mailto:pking@brookside.net) | 402.895.1484



**brookside**CHURCH

11607 M Circle | Omaha, NE 68137 | 402.895.1484

# Obtaining a Marriage License

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To find out how to obtain a Marriage License visit [www.douglascountyclerk.org](http://www.douglascountyclerk.org), click on the "Marriage License" tab on the left side. There you will find out the requirements for obtaining a license. You can also download a Marriage License Application. This application must be filled out and submitted in person to the Douglas County Clerk's Office at:

Douglas County Clerk's Office  
1819 Farnam Street  
Room H08  
Omaha, NE 68183  
402.444.6080

\* Please remember to have your marriage license present at the wedding ceremony!!! It is highly recommended to give the license to someone else (for e.g., a matron of honor or the personal attendant) and ask that they keep it handy for when it's needed.

\*\* After the license is signed, you are responsible for making sure the filled-out license is mailed. It is highly recommended that you ask someone else (for e.g., a matron of honor or the personal attendant) to make sure this is done for you soon after the wedding. When you get the marriage license, it will come with a pre-addressed envelope. Consider sticking a stamp on the envelope before your wedding so the person mailing it can do so as quickly and easily as possible.



# Wedding Ceremony Helps

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## (order of service)

About 8-10 weeks before your wedding date, you will sit down with your officiating pastor, catch up on a few things, and begin to put together an order of service for your wedding ceremony. (Please contact the officiating pastor if you have not heard from him 8 weeks before your wedding.)

The pastor will bring some suggested ideas and suggestions for you to include in the service, and you will be allowed to converse with him about questions you have and work towards personalizing the service in a way that you desire. If you have questions about what's included in this "service planning meeting" before you get together, please contact the officiating pastor directly.

# Wedding Ceremony Helps

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(sample order of service)

## **PRELUDE**

\*\*\*

## **SEATING OF FAMILY**

Grandparents

Groom's parents

Bride's mother

Mother's light tapers (optional)

Pastor & Groom proceed to stage

## **PROCESSIONAL**

Wedding Party

Ring Bearer (s)

Flower Girl (s)

Bride & Escort

## **GREETING & DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE**

## **PRESENTATION OF BRIDE**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

## **HOMILY**

## **PRAYER**

## **MARRIAGE VOWS**

## **EXCHANGE OF RINGS**

## **LIGHTING OF UNITY CANDLE**

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## **BLESSING**

## **DECLARATION OF MARRIAGE**

## **WEDDING KISS**

## **PRESENTATION OF THE BRIDE & GROOM**

## **RECESSIONAL**

## **POSTLUDE/DISMISSAL OF GUESTS**

# Wedding Ceremony Helps

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## (sample wedding vows)

The following are examples of wedding vows for your ceremony. The pastor who will be performing your ceremony will need to know which sample number you select or if you will be writing your own.

### Sample Vow #1

**Groom:** I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part. With all my heart I commit this vow to you.

**Bride:** I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part. With all my heart I commit this vow to you.

### Sample Vow #2

**Groom:** " \_\_\_\_\_, I love you. I believe the Lord has brought us together and in the spirit of His love, I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my beloved wife. I commit my life to serve the Lord as one with you. I promise to encourage you and pray for you and to be your faithful husband for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part. With all my heart I commit this vow to you."

**Bride:** " \_\_\_\_\_, I love you. I believe the Lord has brought us together and in the spirit of His love, I take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my beloved husband. I commit my life to serve the Lord as one with you. I promise to encourage you and pray for you and to be your faithful wife for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do us part. With all my heart I commit this vow to you."

### Sample Vow #3

**Groom:** I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded wife. With deepest joy I receive you into my life that together we may be one. As is Christ to His Body, the Church, so I will be to you, \_\_\_\_\_, a loving and faithful husband. Always I will perform my leadership of you even as Christ does me. Knowing that my desire is to keep Christ the Lord of my life, I promise you my deepest love, my fullest devotion, my most tender care. My dedication to you will be second only to my dedication to God. I promise I will lead us into a life of faith and hope in Christ Jesus ever honoring God's guidance by His Spirit and through His Word. No matter what may lie ahead of us throughout life, I pledge to you my life as a loving and faithful husband.

**Bride:** I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_\_, to be my wedded husband. With deepest joy I come into my new life with you. As you have pledged to me your life and love, so I too happily give you my life. And in confidence submit myself to your leadership as to the Lord. As is the church in her relationship to Christ... so I will be to you. I will live unto our God and then unto you... loving you, following you, caring for you, and ever seeking to support you. God has prepared me for you, and so I will ever strengthen, help, comfort, and encourage you. Therefore, \_\_\_\_\_, through life, no matter what may be ahead of us, I pledge to you my life, as a loving and faithful wife.

# Wedding Ceremony Helps

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## (sample wedding Scripture)

You are encouraged to consider finding a Scripture passage that can be read during your wedding ceremony and that will serve as a sort of "launch pad" into a short homily during the service. As you consider options, think about Scriptures that have ministered to you as a couple or that you want to guide your future lives together. A few recommendations are suggested below (and continuing on to the next page as well):

### **Genesis 2:4-7, 15, 18-24**

(4) This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens – (5) and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, (6) but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground – (7) the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

(15) The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.....

(18) The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.' (19) Now the LORD God had formed out the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. (20) So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. (21) So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. (22) Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. (23) The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; and shall be called "woman," for she was taken out of man.' (24) For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

### **1 Corinthians 13**

(1) If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

(4) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup> It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup> Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

(8) Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup> but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. <sup>12</sup> Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

(13) And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

# Wedding Ceremony Helps

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(sample wedding Scripture, cont'd from previous page)

## **Ephesians 5:21-33**

(21) Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

(22) Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

(25) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

## **1 John 4:7-16**

(7) Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

(13) We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

## **Matthew 6:33**

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you as well.

# The Wedding is Over – Now What?

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(continuing steps for a lifetime of God-honoring marriage)

Much of the work you've done thus far has been preparing for your ceremony – that beautiful time of making promises to each other before God and in the presence of those attending your wedding.

And though the wedding is over, the marriage is just beginning! As you begin officially adjusting to married life, below you can read about a couple of ways to stay plugged in at Brookside – either (or both!) of these are strongly recommended and will help you in your pursuit of God-honoring marriage for a lifetime.

1. First, you may have heard us talk about LIFEgroups – smaller groups of 5-6 couples who gather together regularly to get to know each other and stay connected to God's Word. Check out our LIFEgroups page at [www.brookside.net](http://www.brookside.net) and find out how to get connected!
2. In addition to our pre-marital coaching ministry, Brookside also offers a "marriage mentoring" ministry in which recently-married couples can choose to participate. Similar in some ways to our pre-marital coaching ministry, if you're interested in our marriage mentoring we'll connect you with a volunteer couple who will meet with you 8-9 times over the course of a year or so; this is a great way to build another relationship with a couple striving to build a God-honoring marriage themselves and provide a context for you to talk about things that come up during your first year of marriage – the good times and the bumps – and handle these issues in a way that honors Jesus. If you're interested in this marriage mentoring ministry, contact Peggy King at the church office: 895-1484 or [pking@brookside.net](mailto:pking@brookside.net).