

HOPE CHURCH WEDDING GUIDE

Latest Update — October 11, 2016

Congratulations on your engagement! We are excited for you and hope this guide will help you navigate having your wedding at Hope Church.

This document is intended to help you understand our philosophy and policies regarding weddings at Hope Church. **Please read it before your first meeting.**

At Hope, we desire to do all we can to assure a joyous and God-honoring wedding ceremony and to help lay a foundation for a healthy marriage.

A Christian wedding is a sacred event which births a new family. Therefore, we feel it is incumbent upon us to clearly communicate God's desire for marriage.

Hope Church's Position on a Biblical Marriage:

Scripture teaches that marriage has been designed by God to be between a single man and a single woman (Ephesians 5:31, Romans 1:24-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Therefore, Hope Church does not support same-sex marriage, and will not allow its facilities or staff to be utilized in any manner for the purpose of conducting same-sex marriage ceremonies.

We also believe Scripture clearly teaches that "Living Together" violates the teachings of the Bible for the Christian. God forbids all forms of sexual immorality. (Acts 15:20; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:13, 18; 10:8; 2 Corinthians 12:21; Galatians 5:19; Ephesians 5:3; Colossians 3:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Jude 7) You will be asked if you are "Living Together."

Philosophy:

The Pastors of Hope Church believe that the wedding ceremony is a sacred event where the couple make promises to one another before God, as well as their family and friends.

If the couple is asking for God's blessing on their union, we feel certain steps must be taken. In light of this and because the Pastors of Hope take their Biblical role seriously, they must feel comfortable with the couple and their goals and desires before they will agree to do their ceremony.

Wedding Procedure:

1. Read the wedding guide and submit an online information form.
2. A staff member will then set up an appointment to meet with a Hope Church Pastor.
3. Once you and the officiating Pastor are in agreement to move forward together, you will set up your 1st pre-marital counseling class. The appointment will last 1 hour and you will be given homework. During this appointment, you will also turn in your application and pay a deposit. At this point your wedding date will be reserved on the Church Calendar.
4. During the course of the next several months, you will have 4 to 5 more pre-marital sessions. Your last appointment will be with both the pastor and the wedding coordinator to go over the final details of your marriage ceremony and answer any last questions. **Your final payment is also due at this meeting.**

5. Your rehearsal will generally be the evening before the ceremony. Then you are off to decorate, rehearse, and GET MARRIED!

What we will provide:

- Use of the facilities for the rehearsal, decorating, dressing, pictures, and the ceremony.
- A Wedding Coordinator who will assist in planning, preparing for and coordinating the events of the wedding ceremony in accordance with Hope Church policies. They will provide information regarding the availability and use of equipment, decorations and facilities. They will also be present for your rehearsal and ceremony to offer assistance and guidance to you and the officiating pastor.
- A Technology Representative who will work with you to facilitate your audio, video and lighting components for your wedding ceremony. They will be present for the rehearsal and the ceremony.
- A Pre-marital Counseling program designed so that each couple will meet with the officiating Pastor to discuss some of the most foundational issues of a healthy Biblical marriage. This is your time to help you better prepare for your lifetime together.
- A Pastor who will assist you in planning your wedding, counseling you on your marriage and officiating your wedding ceremony. Using a non-Hope Pastor to officiate your wedding must be approved by the Hope Staff.

Fees:

The total fee to use the facilities is \$500. This fee includes the use of the facilities as stated above, the wedding coordinator, the technology representative and general janitorial fees. The payment is due to “Hope Church” no later than 1 week prior to your ceremony.

This fee does NOT cover any live musicians you may invite to be part of your wedding. We encourage you to consider the total amount of time we are investing in helping you prepare for your wedding and marriage when you consider that payment.

Any extra costs will be the responsibility of the bridal couple. [i.e. Special set-up requiring additional assistance from janitorial service or any employees of Hope Church.]

Scheduling your wedding:

Weddings are just one of the many events that take place at Hope Church. Almost every night of the week there is an event taking place in our facilities. Because of these many events and our regular weekend services [Sat. – 5:00 pm, Sun. 9:00, 10:00 and 11:00 am], we must limit the number of wedding and the times at which they can occur.

Also, due to the volume of requests and limited availability, we do reserve the right to restrict the use of the building to those who attend Hope Church. Weddings are to start no later than 2:00pm on Saturdays at the Kennedy Campus. Hope Church offers our facilities for the wedding ceremony ONLY. **We do not host rehearsal dinners or receptions at the church.**

Facility Guidelines:

Hope Church expects all bridal couples and guests to be respectful of the facilities. Please keep your guests within the designated areas for your wedding day.

The use of the nursery, multi-purpose rooms and cafe are prohibited at the Kennedy Campus.

The use of the nursery, bridge 45 and Stepping Stones rooms are prohibited at the Roshek Campus.

We will try to accommodate your needs as best we can, but we reserve the right to have other ministry events on the dates of your rehearsal and wedding. We ask that you would refrain from alcohol and smoking within any of our facilities.

Wedding Set-Up and Clean-up:

Please respect our church ambiance and décor. After your rehearsal and wedding ceremony, you are expected to remove all items you brought to Hope Church for your wedding and leave the church as you found it. Hope janitorial personnel will care for the restrooms, vacuuming the floors, and general final clean up.

Photographs:

Please consult the officiating pastor and wedding coordinator regarding appropriate times for taking pictures and video-taping during the ceremony. Inform your photographer and videographer accordingly.

Use of candles:

Candles may be used inside the facilities. Please be extremely careful with open flames.

Gifts and Valuables:

The bridal couple assumes all responsibility for gifts and valuables brought to Hope Church. We encourage you to assign someone to be responsible for gifts at all times. Please do not leave valuables unattended.

Parking:

For the Kennedy Campus, all vehicles, including limousines, are to be parked in the parking lot. Vehicles are not to be parked on sidewalks or lawn at any time.

For the Roshek Campus, the wedding party will need to comply with the city parking ordinances.

Non-Member Use of the Building:

Hope Church is a busy place and the facilities are used during the week and every weekend. Due to the high usage of the building we are not able to offer outside groups to use the building.

Wedding License:

The couple should acquire a wedding license at least a week before the ceremony and present it to the officiating Pastor at the rehearsal. You will need a Dubuque County Wedding License.