

Pre-Marriage Information

WELCOME!

Northampton Bible Church's mission for our pre-marriage process is to prepare couples for the marriage ceremony and their lifelong relationship together by providing them with a Biblical guideline and foundation for Christian marriage and assisting them through their wedding preparation.

In order to accomplish our mission, we have designed a process to help in effectively preparing couples for Christian marriage. The purpose of this packet is to familiarize you with the steps and requirements for getting married at Northampton Bible Church and to provide you with all the pertinent information about how weddings are done here. We hope you find this information helpful.

If you have any questions, please contact the Wedding Director - northamptonbiblechurch@gmail.com

1. REQUIREMENTS

A. Both individuals must give clear testimony to their faith in Jesus Christ.

As stated above, we desire to prepare couples for Christian marriage. Foundational to Christian marriage is the Christian faith of the individual members of the marriage. Therefore, while we value anyone making the commitment of marriage, we ask that those getting married at Northampton Bible Church to both be professing Christians desiring Biblical preparation and wedding ceremony. Also, the Bible teaches us in 2 Corinthians 6:14-16 that it is not good for a Christian to be "yoked" to a non-Christian. Because of this teaching, we do not perform weddings for couples where one is a Christian and the other is not.

B. At least one of the individuals in the relationship must be a regular attendee or member of Northampton Bible Church.

Our wedding ministry is for couples connected with Northampton, not just "a service" in general. While we welcome anyone into our Pre-Marriage Classes, we perform weddings specifically for people who consider Northampton their home church.

C. Both individuals must be in agreement with the Marriage Policy of Northampton.

The marriage policy of Northampton Bible Church is as follows:

“We believe that marriage is a covenant relationship established by God (Genesis 2:22-24) and is a representation of Christ, the bridegroom, and His Church, the bride (Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7-9).

- 1. Church weddings are available only to regular members of the church or those attending consistently who agree with Northampton Bible Church’s marriage policy and wedding procedures.*
- 2. We generally do not perform marriages if one or both parties have been divorced unless there were Biblical grounds for divorce (Matthew 5:31-32; Mark 10:2-12).*
- 3. Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, Northampton Bible Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the staff of Northampton Bible Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of Northampton Bible Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:22-24, Mark 10:6-9).*
- 4. We generally do not perform marriages if you are presently living together and unwilling to change the living arrangement; it is not proper to ask God's blessing on something condemned in Scripture (Hebrews 13:4; I Thessalonians 4:1-8). Sexual relations are only to be between a husband and wife (Genesis 2:24).*
- 5. The Fellowship Hall and other Northampton facilities are not for rent. Members who use these areas for a reception must abide by certain conditions noted in “Procedures for Using Fellowship Hall”.*
- 6. Pre-marriage counseling is required by a pastor of Northampton Bible Church. A pastor of Northampton Bible Church must determine that the couple seeking marriage in the church is ready to enter into the marriage covenant as established by God (Mark 10:6-9).*
- 7. One of the pastors at Northampton Bible Church must be in charge of the wedding ceremony.”*

D. Both individuals must complete the pre-marriage process.

This involves completing the steps below. The process will help us to not only prepare you well for marriage, but it will also allow us to assist you better in the preparation for your wedding.

2. PRE-MARRIAGE STEPS AT NORTHAMPTON

These steps are meant to help you know the process of getting married at Northampton. The steps take time to go through, especially the pre-marriage class and counseling sessions, so we recommend that you allow several months between the beginning of the process and your wedding day. The Wedding Director will also be your primary contact person throughout the process, until approximately a month before your wedding.

1. Initial contact with the Wedding Director

This will help us to determine if your date is available and will allow us to answer any questions you have about the process.

2. Submit the Wedding Application

After you have made your initial contact with the Wedding Director, ***you will need to submit the Wedding Application attached to this form.*** Submission of the Wedding Application will tentatively hold your date until we can confirm your information.

3. Wedding Confirmation

Once we confirm your information and date, you will have **30 days** to complete the following:

- a. Return full payment for the location(s) being reserved (Auditorium, Fellowship Hall, etc.)
- b. Register for a Pre-Marriage class
- c. Confirm the wedding with your Officiating Pastor

(If you do not have a preferred pastor, one will be assigned upon wedding confirmation.)

After this is completed, your wedding will be officially confirmed.

3. PRE-MARRIAGE & COUNSELING

The major part of the pre-marriage process is our pre-marriage class and counseling sessions with your Officiating Pastor. The class is designed to help you better understand yourselves, your relationship, and ultimately God's purposes for your marriage. Meeting with your Officiating Pastor then allows us to address any issues specific to your future marriage and to help you plan a great wedding ceremony.

:: The Pre-Marriage Class is a **6-week** course that runs throughout the spring and one time in the fall. Counseling sessions with your Officiating Pastor are generally done once the class has been completed. You will plan your ceremony as part of the sessions with your pastor.

:: For couples where this is a second marriage, the pre-marriage class is replaced with a re-marriage class and there are also some added counseling requirements. We will contact you with this information.

4. PRICING

Costs involved with hosting a wedding at Northampton

There are facility and staffing fees involved in having a wedding at Northampton Bible Church. The pricing is outlined below:

1. AUDITORIUM WEDDING : \$500 - Seats up to 275 people

Fees Include:

- a. Access to the building generally granted up to three hours before and up to two hours after the start time of ceremony.
- b. Access Wedding Equipment
 - i. Two electric or candle candelabras
 - ii. Unity Candle table (Unity Candle provided by Bride)
 - iii. Sanctuary Arch Candles
 - iv. Privacy Screens
- c. Honorarium for Officiating Pastor
- d. Sound & Media Director
- e. Janitorial Services
- f. Wedding Director
- g. HVAC
- h. **NOTE:** there are additional fees if a musician, or other staff person is needed

2. OFF-SITE WEDDING : \$200 - Pastoral honorarium

3. FELLOWSHIP HALL: \$25/hour - Seats up to 100 people

The Fellowship Hall is available for use for the Rehearsal Dinner and/or for a light Reception. Because this space is available for Members or Regular Attenders, there is no fee to use this space; however, there is a Janitorial/HVAC Fee of **\$25/hour**. Total will be calculated based on need when space is reserved. Please note that the kitchen is a *warming* kitchen, not a full, commercial kitchen and cannot be utilized for food preparation.

5. CONTACT WITH YOUR WEDDING COORDINATOR

Your Wedding Coordinator will contact you approximately a month before your wedding. At that time, he/she becomes your main contact person. Your Wedding Coordinator will also send you a **Rehearsal Worksheet** which will aid in the planning of the details of your ceremony. This will be returned to the Wedding Coordinator.

6. WEDDING DAY!

Once the process is completed, then it's time for the main event.

Additional Notes

1. Music and Video

- a. Ceremony music and a track list must be provided to the Sound & Media Director at least **one** week before the wedding either as a CD or MP3 files on a flash drive.
- b. The list must specify what each song is to be used for in the ceremony and the proper order they are to be played in.

2. Marriage License

- a. Each couple is responsible for securing a Marriage License about one month prior to wedding date.
- b. Marriage License should be given to the Officiating Pastor on the night of the rehearsal.

Please remove pages 1 - 5 and keep for your records and complete and return pages 6 - 14 to the Wedding Director



Pre-Marriage Application

Bride : _____

Groom : _____

Wedding Date : _____

Today's Date: _____

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Bride Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Age: _____

Email: _____ Regular Attendee/Member: [Y] [N]

Place of Employment (and/or school): _____

Groom Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Age: _____

Email: _____ Regular Attendee/Member: [Y] [N]

Place of Employment (and/or school): _____

B. WEDDING INFORMATION

Wedding Date: _____ Location of Wedding : _____

Preferred Officiating Northampton Pastor: _____ Confirmed: [Y] [N]

Please note It Is your responsibility to make arrangements with a Pastor to officiate your ceremony. Pastors outside of Northampton need to be approved by Staff and/or Board before proceeding

[] Please assign a Pastor to us.

[] If other than a Northampton Pastor, please include the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Church _____

C. TESTIMONIES OF FAITH

Please include with this application a testimony from both of you about your journey of believing in and following Jesus.

D. FAMILY & RELATIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The primary purpose of this section is to assist us in preparing you well for your marriage. This information is only shared with the Wedding Director and the Officiating Pastor. The following sections are to be filled out by both the bride and the groom.

THE BRIDE'S FAMILY INFORMATION

*(To be filled out by the **Bride** - pages 8-10)*

(1) Parents' occupations: _____

(2) How long have they been married? _____

(3) Describe their marriage: _____

divorced? _____ how long? _____ how old were you? _____

(4) Church background: _____

(5) Education (schools you attended): _____

(6) Family history (siblings, significant events, etc.): _____

(7) Which parent are you most like and why?: _____

(8) Describe your relationship with your:

Father:

Mother:

Step Parent:

Your Relational Life

(9) How and when did you meet your fiancé? How long have you dated? When did you get engaged?

(10) Is this your first marriage? [Y] [N]

If not, please explain:

If divorced, how long has your divorce been final?

(11) Do you have any children? [Y] [N]

If Yes:

Ages: _____

Custodial Arrangement: _____

(12) What are some ways you and your fiancé are different?

(13) What fears do you have about marriage?

(14) When you enter into marriage, you give up the single lifestyle. What are you going to give up?

(15) Will both you and your fiancé continue to behave and relate the same way after marriage that you do now, or will there be changes? How will you change?

(16) What convinced you that you love your groom-to-be?

Describe your love:

(17) Give 10 indications why you want to marry this person.

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 10. _____ |

(18) Give 5 indications as to why this is the time of your life to marry.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

SPIRITUAL LIFE

(19) Do you and your fiancé attend church together? Are you involved in a Bible study or small group together? Are you serving in ministry? Describe your involvement.

(20) Describe your personal spiritual life.

(21) Describe your spiritual life as a couple.

(22) What has helped you grow in your spiritual life in the past 6 months?

THE GROOM'S FAMILY INFORMATION

*(To be filled out by the **Groom** - pages 11-13)*

(1) Parents' occupations: _____

(2) How long have they been married? _____

(3) Describe their marriage: _____

divorced? _____ how long? _____ how old were you? _____

(4) Church background: _____

(5) Education (schools you attended): _____

(6) Family history (siblings, significant events, etc.): _____

(7) Which parent are you most like and why?: _____

(8) Describe your relationship with your:

Father:

Mother:

Step Parent:

Your Relational Life

(9) How and when did you meet your fiancé? How long have you dated? When did you get engaged?

(10) Is this your first marriage? [Y] [N]

If not, please explain:

If divorced, how long has your divorce been final?

(11) Do you have any children? [Y] [N]

If Yes:

Ages: _____

Custodial Arrangement: _____

(12) What are some ways you and your fiancé are different?

(13) What fears do you have about marriage?

(14) When you enter into marriage, you give up the single lifestyle. What are you going to give up?

(15) Will both you and your fiancé continue to behave and relate the same way after marriage that you do now, or will there be changes? How will you change?

(16) What convinced you that you love your bride-to-be?

Describe your love:

(17) Give 10 indications why you want to marry this person.

1. _____

6. _____

2. _____

7. _____

3. _____

8. _____

4. _____

9. _____

5. _____

10. _____

(18) Give 5 indications as to why this is the time of your life to marry.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

SPIRITUAL LIFE

(19) Do you and your fiancé attend church together? Are you involved in a Bible study or small group together? Are you serving in ministry? Describe your involvement.

(20) Describe your personal spiritual life.

(21) Describe your spiritual life as a couple.

(22) What has helped you grow in your spiritual life in the past 6 months?

In our desire to be married at Northampton Bible Church, we agree to adhere to the requirements and steps of Northampton's pre-marriage process. We also stand in agreement with the Marriage Policy as outlined in the Pre-Marriage Information.

Bride's Signature: _____

Groom's Signature: _____

Date Completed and Returned: _____

Please mail or return to:

Wedding Director

333 Steels Corners Rd.

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44223

Or scan/email to: northamptonbiblechurch@gmail.com

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date application was received: _____

Date application & wedding approved : _____

Officiating Pastor confirmation date: _____

Notes: