

Sierra Grace Fellowship

Wedding Use Philosophy and Guidelines

We of Sierra Grace Fellowship believe in and promote Christian marriage, marriage by God's design as it is revealed in the Bible, God's Word. We advocate Christian marriage for several reasons; (1) Most importantly, it glorifies God, (2) It offers the greatest opportunity for marital permanence, and (3) it provides the best environment for family happiness.

God's Word offers some clear insight into the Designer's plan for marriage, i.e. the Bible gives us explanations of how marriage is meant to work – something like an owner's manual which gives a car owner the manufacturer's directions about how the car is designed to work. Obviously, by following the manufacturer's directions, many problems can be avoided. We take this approach (understanding the purpose of marriage and the way it works) by referring to the Designer's instruction manual (the Bible) to prepare people for marriage.

Premarital counseling is required for all couples. We believe this will help prepare you for a successful marriage relationship. You may obtain this counseling through Sierra Grace or from another source acceptable to Sierra Grace Fellowship's Elders. The first session is a "get acquainted" time during which our requirements are explained, the counseling is outlined and the premarital counselor decides if our policy of providing a Christian wedding is for you. The remaining four sessions are concerned with understanding God's design for marriage, Biblical counsel as preparation, and an individualized planning of your personal wedding ceremony.

The requirements of Sierra Grace Fellowship are as follows:

1. That you agree to all the premarital counseling sessions and to the homework to be assigned during the counseling
2. That both parties be either, Biblical Christians or non-Christians (the Bible prohibits a Christian from marrying a non-Christian.
3. That you disclose fully any previous marital information and show proof of divorce (if that applies). The Bible allows divorce and remarriage in only certain specific situations.

Guidelines

Making the reservation

The date for your wedding should be determined as soon as possible. Check your desired dates with the church secretary to see if the church is already in use. When a date has been selected it will be necessary for the bride and groom to fill out an application and have a personal conference with a pastor/Elder before the date can be confirmed and entered on the church calendar. It is important not to announce the date until these steps have been completed.

Things to consider

1. A Saturday wedding may start no later than 3:00 pm unless the church staff involved has approved the later start.
2. A deposit of \$250 will be required before the date can be reserved on the church calendar. The full amount will be returned after the wedding if all the guidelines have been adhered to and no damage has occurred. It will be forfeited if the guidelines are not followed or church property has been damaged.

Member/ Non-Member Weddings

If the bride or groom or the parents of the bride or groom are members of Sierra Grace Fellowship then it will be considered a member wedding. Otherwise it will be a non-member wedding. A non-member wedding cannot be scheduled more than 5 months before the desired date. This enables member weddings to have first priority on the calendar.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals should begin promptly at the scheduled time. This is important because of the large number of people involved. It is up to the bride and groom to make sure their family and wedding party are well informed and prompt.

1. The minister and wedding coordinator will be in charge of the rehearsal.
2. The rehearsal, unless otherwise agreed upon, will be in the evening of the day before the wedding
3. The parents of the bride and groom should be present for the rehearsal.
4. All the wedding party should be present for the rehearsal
5. The church will be cleaned before the rehearsal but not again before the wedding.

Music

The wedding coordinator is available to help you in choosing music for your ceremony and can recommend soloists and musicians if you wish. There is a keyboard for your use on the stage.

Decorations

1. Nails, tacks, staples, pins, or anything that might mar walls, upholstery, or woodwork may not be used for decorating. Poster tape or tacky putty is acceptable.
2. All candles must be drip-less.
3. All deliveries should be pre-arranged with the wedding coordinator.
4. Decorations should be complete at least two hours before the ceremony. They should be removed immediately after the ceremony. All other personal belongings should also be removed immediately after the wedding.
5. The bride and groom are responsible for any damage done to the building or its furnishings.
6. The Wedding coordinator will be glad to advise on what decorations are allowed or available but it is not her responsibility to put up or take down the decorations.
7. The custodian will be responsible for removing all wedding equipment belonging to the church.

Valuables

Sierra Grace Fellowship will not be responsible or liable for the loss of or damage to any gifts, wedding items or personal property.

General Guidelines

1. Outside pastors must be approved by the SGF Elder board.
2. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at any time on church property.
3. No rice, birdseed, or confetti should be used inside or outside of the church
4. Flash photography is not allowed during the wedding ceremony.
5. When the application process is complete and approved, the wedding coordinator will contact the bride. It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to contact the wedding coordinator with their questions and desires. Please do not call the church office with questions once you have begun meeting with the wedding coordinator.
6. No food or drink is allowed in the sanctuary.

Fee Schedule for Weddings

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Non-Member</u>
Wedding (Wedding Coordinator, Sound Tech, Custodian, and set up of stage and any rooms used)	\$450.00	\$600.00
Rehearsal Dinner (Fellowship Hall)	\$75.00	\$150.00
Reception *	\$300.00	\$500.00
Refundable Damage Deposit	\$250.00	\$250.00

- Reception fee includes additional hours for coordinator, the set up and tear down of tables and chairs in the gym, and the custodial fee.
- There are 20 round tables available, buffet tables, and seating for a maximum of 160 people
- Linens are available for an additional fee of \$3.00 each to cover the professional cleaning
- The reception is limited to four hours

All fees are to be paid in full one week prior to the wedding. Please make your checks payable to Sierra Grace Fellowship. Failure to pay these fees could result in a forfeiture of wedding date and deposit. Honorariums for the pastor, musicians and soloist are discussed individually with these people.

Sierra Grace Fellowship WEDDING USE APPLICATION

After reading the wedding guidelines please fill out this application completely and give to church secretary. She will set up your appointment with a counselor and tentatively reserve the date requested on the church calendar. After the counselor has given his approval you may proceed with further planning and counseling.

Name of Bride _____ Name of Groom _____

Bride's Address _____

Bride's Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Bride's Birth Date: _____

Bride's Church _____

Groom's Address _____

Groom's Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Groom's Birth Date: _____

Groom's Church _____

Premarital Counselor _____ Phone _____

Date of Wedding _____ Time _____

Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Estimated attendance _____

Rooms requested:

Sanctuary _____ Nursery _____ Gym _____ Fellowship Hall _____ Other _____

We agree to abide by the rules set forth in this wedding policy.

Bride _____ Date _____

Groom _____ Date _____

Office Use	Deposit _____ Sanctuary _____ Gym _____ Fellowship Hall _____ Custodian _____ Sound Technician _____ Wedding Coordinator _____
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