

*Weddings* at Grace Baptist Church



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## MARRIAGE IS MORE THAN A WEDDING

*We believe your wedding is more than just a ceremony.* Though the culture has evolving definitions of marriage, we believe that it is God alone who has the ultimate authority to prescribe and describe the marital relationship (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:1-9; Mark 10:1-12). Because of this understanding, we will only recognize marriages that meet the biblical definition: a covenant relationship between one gender-normative man and one gender-normative woman. The pastors, ministers and staff of Grace will only participate in weddings and officiate marriages that meet this definition and the facilities and property of Grace will only host marriage ceremonies that meet this definition.

Marriage is a covenant intended by God to be a lifelong relationship between a man and a woman. Marriage was God's idea and we place a high value on the marriage covenant. A proper foundation for marriage is important to us because it is important to God. The Scripture makes it clear that marriage is to reflect God's good news to the world. Throughout God's Word we see over and over again the importance God places on the husband-wife relationship and the valuable benefits of that relationship. You are going from "I" to "we/us," and it will be important to learn how to make that transition easily.

There are two things we would like to help you with in your preparation for life together. We want to serve you both in the planning of your wedding and also in the future growth of your marriage.

1. **The wedding.** We want this day to be all you desire it to be as you celebrate your covenants and vows together with friends and family.
2. **Your marriage.** We would like to come alongside and help equip you with principles from God's Word that will encourage and build your relationship.

## WEDDING INSTRUCTIONS

*Grace Baptist Church facilities are available to members and regular attendees* (those who attend regularly, but have not gone through the membership process). All others will be taken on a case by case scenario.

The God glorifying role of marriage is described throughout the Bible. In light of this, our desire is to see every marriage started off with a biblical foundation. For every marriage which we are involved in we require a minimum engagement period of 6 months which will enable time for training and counseling prior to the wedding. We also want to make it clear that God cannot be called upon to bless a union of a man and a woman if they are currently living in a situation that goes against His will. Therefore we ask that if you are currently living together you make arrangements to rectify this and make it right before God before you connect with us.

We do not allow our church to be used for weddings if you are not going to use one of our Pastors or Elders to officiate at your wedding.

We see marriage as not only a covenant commitment between a man and a woman before God but also as a relationship that is intimately connected to the body of Jesus Christ. We are not here to fulfill a social, legal contract but to be a part of something that we believe that “from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let not man separate” (Mark 10:6-9).

## STEPS TO SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

1. Read this Wedding Book thoroughly. Many of your questions will be answered within these pages.
2. Fill out a wedding request form, available on line or through the church office and hand it in to the church administrative assistant.
3. Contact the Pastor whom you wish to have perform the wedding ceremony.
4. Contact our Wedding Coordinator and make an appointment. In your initial meeting with the Wedding Coordinator, you and your fiancé will need to bring your wedding application and deposit. After that meeting we request you give both your application and deposit to the Wedding Coordinator. Please direct all wedding questions to your coordinator, as she is your liaison with the church.
5. If you are requesting the use of the building without having one of our Pastors/Elders officiate at your wedding we do not allow for that. Our desire is to see a marriage not only succeed but to see it thrive so we desire to have the people who are married here be a part of the Jesus community here at Grace.

## GENERAL WEDDING POLICIES

1. Saturday weddings in the Worship Center must be scheduled no later than 4 pm.
2. Any decorating for the wedding or reception area, other than the floor set-up of our accessories and equipment, is the responsibility of the bridal couple. Your wedding coordinator or designee must be present during decorating. You will be responsible for any damage incurred to our facility or furnishings that result from containers, tape, etc.
3. A sound technician will arrive at the church one hour before the ceremony to set up the necessary equipment and set sound levels for any musicians. The technician **will not be present** at the rehearsal. If this becomes necessary, please contact the Worship Director, 701-775-0648, to find out about additional fees.
4. Candles used in any of our wedding accessories and unity candles should be specifically designed for safety. You must provide drip-less, long-burning candles to your wedding coordinator prior to the time of your rehearsal.

5. Only silk flowers may be dropped by the flower girl down the center aisle or on the platform, even if an aisle runner is used.
6. Rice, birdseed or confetti are not permitted on church property.
7. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted on church property.

## **DINNERS/RECEPTIONS**

Facilities are available for receptions and rehearsal dinners. The seating capacity for each room is as follows:

- Fellowship Hall: 120
- Gymnasium: 300

## **KITCHEN USE POLICY**

The kitchen is furnished with cleaning supplies. Kitchen appliance, utensils and dishes must be cleaned and put away. It is the responsibility of the bridal party to get people to help with food preparation, serving and cleanup, as well as bringing containers for leftover food. All clean up must be completed at the conclusion of the event. Large coffee pots are available for wedding use, however, supplies such as coffee, sweeteners, cups, creamer and stirrers need to be provided by the bridal party. Responsibilities for the bridal party include:

- Wash and dry all utensils, containers, and dishes
- Return everything to its place
- Clean all counter tops and sweep and mop the floor
- Place all used dishtowels in the laundry bucket provided
- Remove all unused food at the conclusion of the event; nothing is to be left in the refrigerator or freezer
- Return any items taken from the kitchen at the conclusion of the event; none of the kitchen utensils, containers or dishes are to leave the premises
- Clean out coffee pots
- The kitchen is to be reserved by your wedding coordinator. During the time the kitchen is in use, coordinators have total responsibility for the kitchen equipment and utensils. The bridal party will be charged for the repair or replacement of all damaged, broken or missing items.
- Follow state regulations for catered events.

## MUSIC

*The music for your wedding is an important element and we are here to help!* Your wedding coordinator will put you in touch with our worship director. The worship director must approve all music including instrumental, vocal and pre-recorded. *Please do this portion of your planning early.*

## RECORDED MUSIC

*You may use recorded music if you desire.* It may be a substitute for live music for your processional and/or recessional and in other areas of your wedding. Your wedding coordinator will hand deliver your CD to the sound technician the day of your wedding. Be sure she has it by the time of your rehearsal.

## VIDEO MONTAGE

*A short montage can be an interesting addition to your wedding.* However, it is to be viewed prior to the processional. Your wedding coordinator will hand deliver it to the sound technician one week prior to your wedding.

## FEES

*The payment of musicians is the responsibility of the bridal couple.* It is customary to provide compensation to musicians and vocalists performing in your wedding ceremony. Checks should be written out to the musician(s) and given to him/her at the rehearsal. Some musicians require all payments prior to the wedding date.

## REHEARSAL

*All weddings require a rehearsal* and they are usually held the evening before the wedding. Plan for the rehearsal to take about 1 hour, so time the rehearsal dinner accordingly. In most cases, your pastor will conduct the rehearsal. Those who attend should include any person who is taking part in the wedding ceremony, except for the musicians and sound technician. All decisions concerning your wedding should be made prior to the rehearsal, so there are no needless delays due to changes. The purpose of the rehearsal is to reassure all participants of their roles in the wedding ceremony, so that everything will go smoothly on this most important day.

## **SOUND AND LIGHTS**

*The rental price for the Worship Center* includes the use of in-house sound and lighting systems. We will provide a properly trained sound person for the day of the wedding. If you require a sound person to be present at the rehearsal, there is an additional charge and your coordinator will need to notify the worship director, 701-775-0648, at least three weeks in advance.

## **CAMERAS**

*We ask that your photographers position themselves* during the processional and recessional so that it does not distract from the bridal party or the ceremony. If you have any questions, please talk with your wedding coordinator or pastor. They will help you with any positioning and guidelines that we ask you to follow.

## **WEDDING ACCESSORIES**

Your wedding coordinator will show you the accessories when she meets with you. Arrangements for an aisle runner must be made through a florist.

### **Worship Center Accessories**

- Candelabras (2)
- Communion table
- Full length mirror
- Gift table
- Guest book table
- Iron & ironing board

### **Reception Accessories**

- Kitchen
- Fellowship hall or gymnasium
- Chairs and tables
- Tablecloths

## THE COST OF YOUR WEDDING

Listed below are fees for church use and a reception if you choose to have one at the church. Please make all payments to Grace Baptist Church unless otherwise specified. The deposit is applicable toward all other fees and must accompany the wedding application and be turned in to the church office (write 'wedding' in the memo). Final payment of fees must be given to your wedding coordinator or mailed to Grace Baptist Church, 700 24<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Grand Forks, ND 58201, two weeks prior to your wedding (write 'wedding' in the memo).

### Buildings

Deposit (applied to total)	\$100
Worship Center	\$300

### Receptions

Deposit (applied to total)	\$100
Kitchen and Fellowship Hall or Gymnasium	\$200

### Personnel

Officiating Pastor	\$200
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(a suggested honorarium of \$200.00 is appropriate).

\*\* Fees for the sound technician, projectionist, custodian and wedding coordinator are included in the amounts listed above.



# Grace Baptist Church

700 24<sup>th</sup> Ave S  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

## WEDDING APPLICATION

**Please complete both sides and return to officiating pastor.**

*Please print clearly.*

Bride's full name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's full name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



Requested rehearsal date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Requested wedding date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Number of expected guests \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to have your reception at Grace Baptist Church?  Yes  No

Signature of groom \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of bride \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Getting to Know You

Bride's age \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been dating? \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you been engaged? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your relationship with Jesus Christ. \_\_\_\_\_

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Why do you want to marry? \_\_\_\_\_

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Briefly, but specifically, comment on your parents' attitude toward your upcoming marriage.

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Have you ever been married before? If so, please describe the conditions that caused the termination of your marriage. \_\_\_\_\_



Groom's age \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been dating? \_\_\_\_\_ How long have you been engaged? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your relationship with Jesus Christ. \_\_\_\_\_

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Why do you want to marry? \_\_\_\_\_

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Briefly, but specifically, comment on your parents' attitude toward your upcoming marriage.

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Have you ever been married before? If so, please describe the conditions that caused the termination of your marriage. \_\_\_\_\_

