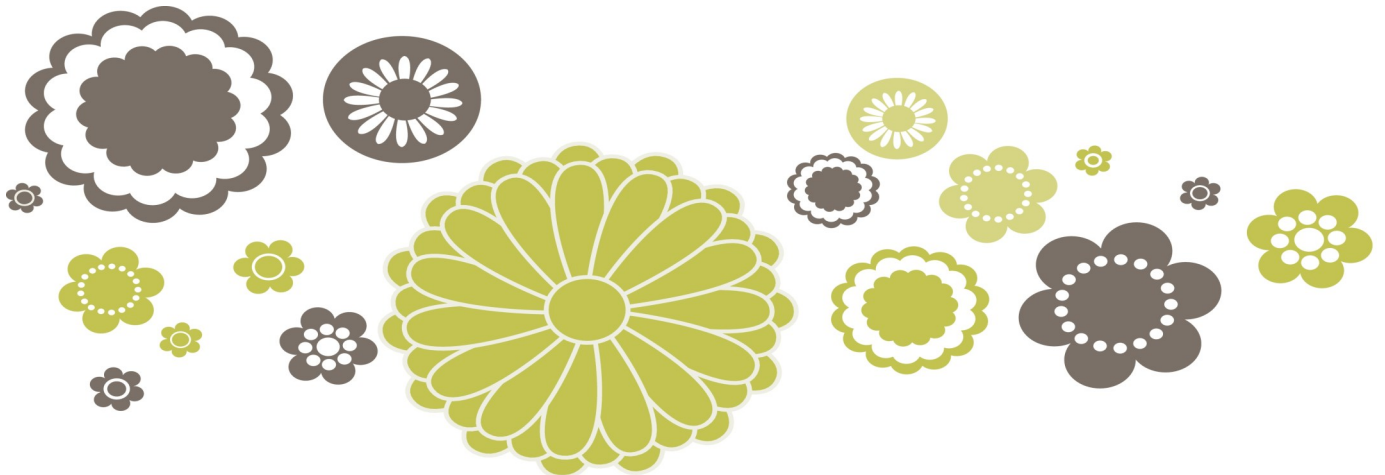
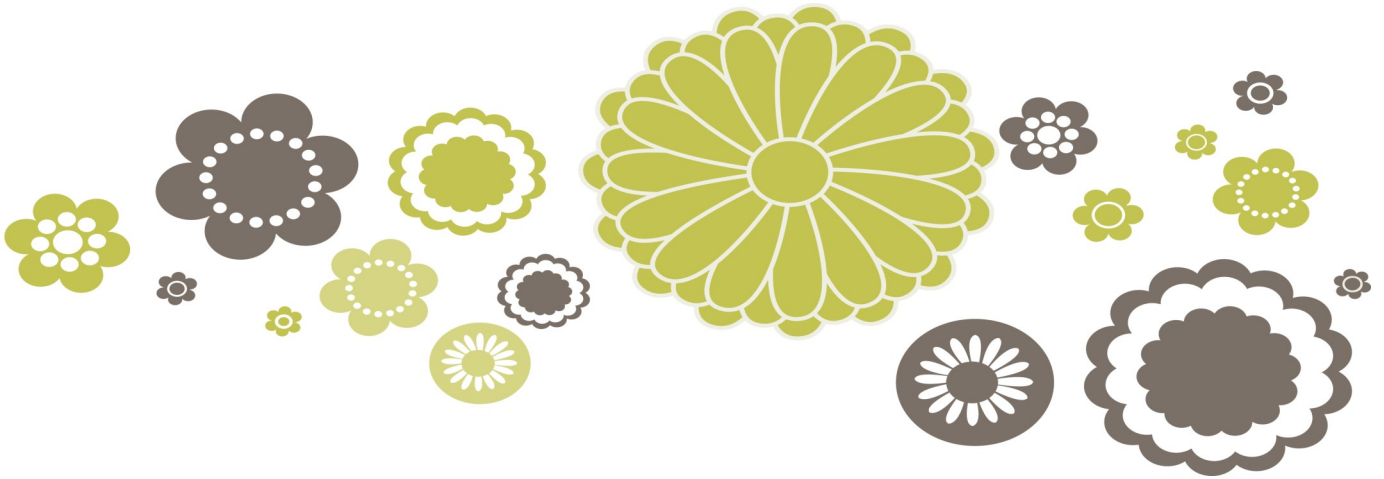


Crossroads Community Church Wedding Manual





Congratulations on your engagement and upcoming wedding!

Thank you for considering Crossroads as the place, and/or a Crossroads Pastor to officiate, as you begin this new journey in your lives. We are honored by your interest and would like to serve you well by providing the information you need to get started and connect you with those who will help you along the way.

It's more than the wedding day that we're here to help you with. As pastors, we take very seriously our role in helping you prepare for your future together. The marriage preparation and counseling procedures at Crossroads are required and intensive. We applaud you and your fiancé if you choose to make this essential investment in your relationship and future happiness.

Within this manual, you will find the steps you need to take from here; along with other necessary information to get you on your way. Please individually fill out the premarital questionnaire, review the purity covenant and bring both with you to your pre marital appointment.

Please call your staff contact if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Crossroads Pastoral Staff

Congratulations!



Your Campus Contact Information

Freeport Campus 1668 Crossroads Lane, Freeport, IL 61032 815.233.9004

Due to Saturday evening services, Saturday weddings must be done & cleared out no later than 2 PM!

Campus Pastor:	Glen Williamson x 109 gwilliamson@crossroadscn.com
Pastor's Assistant:	Nikki Jobes x 134 njobes@crossroadscn.com
Counseling Pastor:	Dan Callahan x 106 dcallahan@crossroadscn.com
Counseling Pastors' Assistant:	Stephanie Smith x 154 ssmith@crossroadscn.com
Your Staff Contact is:	Melody Griffin x 125 mgriffin@crossroadscn.com

Note: the Pastors' Assistants schedule their appointments, please call them directly for appointment times.

If your wedding is at a Crossroads' facility, your staff contact will:

- Check availability and reserve the facility for your rehearsal and wedding.
- Check availability and reserve 'props' such as candelabras, etc.
- Contact custodial team regarding set up and tear down needs.
- Contact tech teams regarding lighting/video needs.
- Contact Sound team regarding rehearsal and ceremony needs.
- Recruit a Wedding Coordinator who is available for your rehearsal and wedding days and provide your contact info.

Planning Checklist

6+ months prior to the ceremony:

- Review Crossroads Pre Marital Packet
- Complete Pre Marital Questionnaires and Discuss Purity Covenant (covenant is signed at initial appointment with pastor)
- Schedule initial appointment with your desired Officiating Pastor *
- Schedule other appointments with Officiating Pastor (as needed)
- Facility Form completed & submitted to the Staff Contact with 20% deposit (facility availability is confirmed once the deposit is received)

** Pastors will determine after the initial appointment if they are able and available to officiate.*

3-6+ months prior to the ceremony:

- Schedule initial appointment with Counseling Pastor
 - Session 1
 - Session 2
 - Session 3
 - Session 4
 - Session 5
 - Session 6
 - Session 7
 - Session 8
 - Additional Sessions (as needed)
- Call Staff Contact re: Facility, Decorating, Video/Audio and other special needs.

1 month prior to the ceremony:

- Schedule final appt. with Officiating Pastor 1-2 wks prior to wedding.
- Meet with your Wedding Coordinator (designated by the Staff Contact)
- Marriage License to Wedding Coordinator.
- Pay remaining balance at least 2 weeks prior to the wedding day. (checks are issued to coordinator, custodian etc. that day).

• Decorating Date/Time: _____

• Rehearsal Date/Time: _____

• Wedding Date/Time: _____

Wedding Guidelines

At Crossroads, we believe that God designed the marriage relationship and therefore, He knows best how to build a marriage that will last a lifetime. We value the Word of God and what it tells us about marriage. If we hope to experience joy and fulfillment in our marriage, we need to adhere to the basic principles of marriage that the Bible outlines. Because we are committed to building healthy marriages that can go the distance, we present the following guidelines. Our purpose is not to make anyone feel condemned or rejected; but to comply with God's principles.

1) We value the permanence of marriage.

It is the desire of Crossroads that your marriage models the Biblical relationship between Jesus Christ and the church, a covenant relationship characterized by joy, intimacy and permanence.

2) We recommend 6 months of marital preparation.

This allows plenty of time for you to schedule and attend several required pre-marital sessions; along with the planning and preparation needed for not only the wedding day, but your future.

3) We recommend that anyone who has been divorced attend a Divorce Recovery Support Group and if children are included, consider attending a Step Families Education Group together.

If it has been less than three years since your divorce, we highly recommend that you avail yourself to Divorce Recovery and if either of you have underage children, Step Families education group is also available through Crossroads Support and Recovery Ministries at the Freeport Campus. Both groups are designed for several reasons; and one of them is to help you protect your future marriage. Please contact Dan Callahan 815.233.9004 x106 or dcallahan@crossroadscn.com. If distance is a factor, ask your Campus Pastor about available resources he or Pastor Dan would recommend.

4) We value the spiritual lives of the couples we marry.

2 Corinthians 6:14 discusses this principle. "Do not be unequally yoked to unbelievers." That is why we cannot marry a couple if they are 'unequally yoked' spiritually, meaning that they do not share the same faith. Both individuals must have surrendered their lives to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and be committed to establishing a Christian home and to pursue a personal relationship with Christ.

5) We value the Biblical definition of purity.

That is why we ask that the couple must remain celibate and not live together at any time prior to the wedding. We will ask that every couple who is requesting to be married through Crossroads sign our Purity Agreement (discussed with and signed at first meeting with pastor). The Pastor will not perform the ceremony if the couple is living together. This is also a protection for you against divorce, as research has found that couples who live together have a higher divorce rate than those who do not.

In conclusion, these guidelines have been created based upon Crossroads Community Church's belief in God's plan for marriage, and are meant to encourage, protect and strengthen the couple's commitment to Christ. Due to the nature of interpersonal relationships and individual's level of maturity, there may be some exceptions to these guidelines. These exceptions will be determined on an individual basis by our pastors.

Worksheet for the Bride



Name: _____

Getting to know you ...

Please complete the following worksheet before your first visit to the officiating pastor.

Why Is This Your Time To Marry?

Make a list of ten indications as to why this is the time of your life to marry.

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

Why He's Mr. Right?

List twelve reasons why you want to marry this man.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Have you ever heard a married person say, "Well, we were friends for a long time, without any real romantic interests, and then suddenly we realized we were falling in love." That isn't exactly a love-at-first sight situation. There are no sirens, no romantic crescendos, no rebellion, no emotional ecstasy. But as we will learn, there is something to be said for a marriage built on friendship.



Poor Reasons to Marry

1. Pregnancy

Many marriages follow from a pregnancy. These are typically done in a rush before the couple have time to prepare for the relationship. Unfortunately, many of these marriages don't last.

2. Rebound

In the time following a broken relationship, someone is hurting. That person wants to be connected, wants attention, wants to feel significant. So they marry someone who meets an immediate need; but after the emotions subside, the reality of the marriage may not meet either partner's needs.

3. Rebellion

Often rebellion is tied to escaping from an unhappy home. Typically, however, the individual moves from one bad situation to another. This applies most to the young. A young girl can be heard to say, "I married him just to get out of the house—just anything to get out of there!"

4. Guilt

Guilt can be related to many things. One of the main culprits is pre-marital sex. *"But isn't sex a natural process, an expression of love?"* Yes, it's natural. Yes, it's an expression of love. But sex before marriage can lead to a legacy of guilt, particularly in the minds of women.

5. Pity

One of the partners has struggled and the other partner plays the rescuer. The rescuer gives and the other takes. Sometimes there is a one way giving that is temporary, but often neither partner changes and then the situation is for life.

Does you or your fiancé's motives for marriage fit any of these categories described above? How do you think this may affect your relationship?

Tell me more about you ...

What is your definition of marriage?

What fears and concerns do you have about marriage?



What is your definition of love and why do you believe that you're in love with this person?

Did You Know ...

Marriage is a gift from God.

Marriage is sacred. It's not our idea but God's. It's something that needs to be valued and protected and given a high priority in our lives. Marriage should be more important than work.

Read Genesis 2:18—What is one of the main reasons God has given for marriage? Can you think of some others?

Marriage is an opportunity to learn and grow.

This is an area which you must be very honest with yourself. You must know ahead of time that you love your spouse and be convinced in your heart and mind. Then you can concentrate in marriage on learning the meaning of that love. Don't fall into the trap that says, "I believed love would develop."

How do you know when you're in love?

Describe the type of love that you have for one another?

How do you see you and your fiancé growing together in the future?

Worksheet for the Groom



Name: _____

Getting to know you ...

Please complete the following worksheet before your first visit to the officiating pastor.

Why Is This Your Time To Marry?

Make a list of ten indications as to why this is the time of your life to marry.

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

Why she is Mrs. Right?

List twelve reasons why you want to marry this woman.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

Have you ever heard a married person say, "Well, we were friends for a long time, without any real romantic interests, and then suddenly we realized we were falling in love." That isn't exactly a love-at-first sight situation. There are no sirens, no romantic crescendos, no rebellion, no emotional ecstasy. But as we will learn, there is something to be said for a marriage built on friendship.



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How do you see you and your fiancé growing together in the future?



Vow Options

Please notify your Staff Contact and Officiating Pastor which vow option you have chosen; or provide a copy if you have chosen to use a different version or write your own.

Option #1

Pastor/Groom:

_____, do you take _____ as your wife, as your own flesh, to love her even as Christ loves the Church, to protect her and care for her the rest of your lives? **Response:** I do.

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, until death shall separate us. According to God's Word, I leave my father and mother and I join myself to you, to be a husband to you. From this moment forward we shall be one.

Pastor/Bride:

_____, do you take _____ as your husband, submitting yourself to him as unto the Lord, showing reverence to him as the head of this union for the rest of your lives? **Response:** I do.

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, until death shall separate us. According to God's Word I come along side you to be your wife. From this moment forward, we shall be one.

Option #2

Pastor/Groom:

_____, do you take _____ as your wife before God and these witnesses? To love her and honor her as Christ loves His Church? To forsake all others and seek the highest good for her according to the will and inspiration of God?

Join Right Hands, Face Each Other And Repeat After Me.

I, _____, take you _____ to be my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, cherish, with the breath, smiles and tears of all my life, till death shall separate us.

Pastor/Bride:

_____, do you take _____ as your husband before God and these witnesses? To love him and honor him? To be his inspiration and companion? To seek the highest good for him according to the will and inspiration of God?

I _____, take you _____ to be my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better or for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, cherish and to respect him, with the breath, smiles and tears of all my life, till death shall separate us.



Vow Options cont.



Reminder: notify your Staff Contact and Officiating Pastor which vow option you have chosen; or provide a copy if you have chosen to use a different version or write your own.

Option #3

Pastor/Groom:

Will you _____ take this woman whom you hold by the hand to be your wedded wife; promising to keep, cherish and lead her and to be her faithful and true husband so long as you both shall live?

I do.

(Join right hands please, face each other and repeat after me.)

As Christ loves the church and gave Himself for her, so I give myself for you to be a loving, faithful and godly husband. You are the most important person in my life next to Christ. I will rely totally and completely on the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to ensure that the Lord Jesus Christ is manifested in our marriage.

Pastor/Bride:

Will you _____ take this man whom you hold by the hand, to be your wedded husband; promising to hold closely to him in all life's changes and to be his loving true wife till death divide you?

I do.

I regard you as an answer to my prayers. You are the one God has chosen for me. Through the power and grace of Jesus Christ, I promise to love you with all of my being, to honor, respect, and esteem you above all others. I will comfort and care for you endeavoring always to encourage and edify you. As Jesus Christ is the most important person in our lives because He gave us life, I will seek to help you attain the stature and fullness of Christ as we serve Him together.

Staff Contact



Wedding Coordinator

Staff Contact

From your first contact to the church to filing your marriage license, the staff contact will be your “partner in planning”. This is the individual who will answer your questions or find the answers you are seeking. There is no additional fee for this role as this is a part of their job description.

- To confirm the facility availability with Campus Services Director.
- To submit your Facility Form & deposit to the finance office securing your event.
- To discuss your needs for the Facility, Decorating, Video/Audio and other special requests.
(such as your desires for communion, chair/aisle set up, etc)
- To be the liaison between you and any church staff (other than officiating/counseling pastors) for any questions or concerns you may have.
- To file the completed marriage license with the county clerk’s office and provide the decorative copy to the couple. (NOTE: Copies for official purposes need to be obtained at the county clerks office after it has been filed; up to 10 days after the wedding date.)
- Etc ...

Wedding Coordinator

It is the policy of Crossroads Community Church that every wedding held at a Crossroads facility includes a Wedding Coordinator. This role has a fee attached to compensate the individuals for their time. *The Crossroads’ Wedding Coordinator is a vital part of your rehearsal and wedding day. Although from her experience she may have wonderful suggestions, this is not a Wedding Planner helping you chose your colors or decorating plans, but someone who will take care of the behind the scene details, allowing you to enjoy your wedding worry-free. In doing that, she serves not only you, but the pastor, sound, tech, custodians and others who are there doing their part to make your day memorable. In retrospect we believe you’ll agree that the Wedding Coordinator was a positive part of your wedding experience.*

- It is your responsibility to secure your florist, photographer, musicians and provide their contact information to the Wedding Coordinator. She then will be certain their needs are met. To secure decorating items from Crossroads (candelabras, kneeling bench, etc.) and provide access to the facility for your decorating team, florist, etc. if outside of regular office hours Monday - Friday.
- To prepare dressing rooms for bride and groom parties.
- To oversee the rehearsal, making sure everyone is in the right place at the right time.
- To do the same on the wedding day and take care of any emergencies that may arise.
- To serve the Officiating Pastor, Sound/Tech, Musicians, etc. at the rehearsal and wedding.
- To secure signatures on your marriage license and submit to the Staff Contact

Bride & Groom’s New Address:

(Please provide this information, so your wedding license can be sent to you following your ceremony).



Crossroads' Wedding

at a Crossroads' Facility

CONTACT INFORMATION & AGREEMENT

This form must be filled out and submitted to your Staff Contact with 20% deposit before the facility is reserved. The balance is due two weeks prior to the wedding date. Checks for any payments due are to be made out to Crossroads Community Church and submitted to your campus office.

Bride's Name (as pastor will refer to you for your vows) : _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____ Check preferred form of contact during business hours.

Groom's Name (as pastor will refer to you for your vows) : _____
Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____ Check preferred form of contact during business hours.

Wedding Location: Crossroads Community Church Date: _____ Time: _____
Set Up & Decorations Date: _____ Time: _____
Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____
If the Officiating Pastor is invited to attend.
Rehearsal Dinner Location: _____ Time: _____
Reception Location: _____ Time: _____
Anticipated Attendance: _____ Number of Attendants for each Bride & Groom: _____

FEES:

- Large Auditorium Crossroads Regular Attender \$ 0 Non-Attender \$150.00
Small Auditorium Crossroads Regular Attender \$ 0 Non-Attender \$150.00
Café Crossroads Regular Attender \$ 0 + \$50 custodial fee Non-Attender \$50.00 + \$50 custodial fee
Kitchen Crossroads Regular Attender \$ 0 + \$50 custodial fee Non-Attender \$100.00 + \$50 custodial fee

SERVICES: (the same for regular attender / non-attender)

- Officiating Pastor \$150.00
Wedding Coordinator \$50.00 for small wedding (under 100 people); \$100 for large wedding (over 100 people)
Custodian \$45.00 (Chair set-up [with center aisle], vacuuming of auditorium, bathroom cleaning before & after event.)
Sound Technician \$45.00 (For a typical wedding. Increase cost for more than basic services.)
Video/Special Lighting \$45.00 + (Cost TBD according to request.) *If a tech is needed to set up special lighting or run the video equipment to play a pre prepared DVD. NOTE: Crossroads staff does not prepare DVD's or videotape weddings.
Other

Total: _____ 20% Deposit: _____ Received by: _____

We agree with the amount determined for the fees and services for our wedding at Crossroads. Our balance will be paid in full, at least 2 weeks prior to our wedding date.

Signature of the Groom: _____ Signature of the Bride: _____



CROSSROADS
COMMUNITY
CHURCH

Wedding Officiated by a Crossroads' Pastor

CONTACT INFORMATION & AGREEMENT

Not at a Crossroads' Facility

*Checks for any payments due are to be made out to
Crossroads Community Church and submitted to your campus office.*

Bride's Name (as pastor will refer to you for your vows):

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Check preferred form of contact during business hours.

Groom's Name (as pastor will refer to you for your vows):

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____ Check preferred form of contact during business hours.

Wedding Location: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____

If the Officiating Pastor is invited to attend.

Rehearsal Dinner Location: _____ Time: _____

Reception Location: _____ Time: _____

FEES & SERVICES:

Officiating Pastor \$150.00

Travel & Hotel Reimbursement TBD

Total: _____ **20% Deposit:** _____

Received by: _____

We agree with the amount determined for the fees and services for a Crossroads Pastor to Officiate.

Our balance will be paid in full, 2 weeks prior to our wedding date.

Signature Groom: _____ **Signature of the Bride:** _____

