

Your

# Wedding<sub>at</sub>

Arizona Community Church



## MARRIAGE IS MORE THAN A WEDDING

We believe your wedding is more than a ceremony. Marriage is a covenant intended by God to be a lifelong relationship between a man and a woman and Himself. Marriage was God's, he ordained it and throughout God's word we see the importance He places on the husband-wife relationship and the extraordinary benefits of that relationship.

## CHOOSING A PASTOR

Be sure to record your choice for a pastor on the Wedding Application form. In some circumstances an outside (non-ACC) pastor may perform the wedding.

If you choose to have a "guest" pastor he must:

1. Be a Christian Pastor, licensed or ordained to the gospel ministries.

2. Be approved by the Senior Pastor of Arizona Community Church
3. Agree with Arizona Community Church's Faith Creed.
4. Dress appropriately, either a dark suit or a black robe is to be worn

#### SELECTING THE WEDDING FACILITY

1. The Worship Center – for weddings up to 960 guests
2. The Prayer Chapel - for weddings 30 or less
3. G-1 - for weddings 100 or less (theatre style seating)
4. G-2 – for weddings 150 or less
5. Community Center for receptions up to 380 guests

#### PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

Although much thought, preparation and expense is given to the ceremony itself, Arizona Community Church firmly believes that a focus on forming a strong foundation for the marriage itself is imperative. We not only want you to have a beautiful ceremony, but more importantly, a successful and lasting marriage.

The pre-marital sessions will include practical understanding and insight into your relationship as a couple. The sessions will help you develop skills in communication and conflict resolution. Some of the areas to be covered include:

- \*Personal faith and values
- \* Unmasking marital myths
- \*Understanding personality preferences
- \*Gender differences
- \*Exposing the unexpressed expectations of rules and roles
- \*Finances
- \*Children and Parenting

\*In-Law relationships

These sessions will also demonstrate the difference Jesus Christ can and will make in the overall quality of your marriage.

General wedding policies:

At your first appointment with our Events Coordinator we will determine if you will need a wedding coordinator to help with your special event, depending on the size of and number of participants in your wedding. We will also discuss at this time the music, av, reception and other important aspects of your event.

A few specific policies are as follows:

1. Only silk flowers may be dropped down the aisles or on the platform, even if an aisle runner is used.
2. Due to safety and clean-up concerns, NO RICE, CONFETTI, OR BIRD SEED may be thrown at any time on the Church premises.
3. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES of any kind are not permitted on the church premises.
4. SMOKING is not permitted inside any church building.
5. All wedding accessories (rental items, flowers, clothes, gifts, etc.) other than church property need to be removed within two hours following the wedding. These are the sole responsibility of the wedding party. Arizona Community Church assumes NO LIABILITY for any items brought to the church for the wedding.
6. The Worship Center is not available for weddings in the month of December of the week of Easter because of preparations for holiday events. Other wedding dates throughout the year may be "black-out" based upon ministry needs.
7. Because of the diverse background of many within ACC, we request that there be NO DANCING at receptions held on the church campus.

## MUSIC

The music for your wedding is an important element and we are here to help! Music used in the ceremony will be in keeping with the dignity and sacredness of a worship service. All music will need to be approved by Arizona Community Church. This review should be completed at least 30 days before the wedding date.

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Most weddings include keyboard music from the piano, organ or both. The piano serves as a more contemporary sound for pre-wedding music and vocal accompaniments while the organ provides a festive announcement for the bride's procession. Other instruments, such as a trumpet, flute, violin, guitar or harp also enhance the wedding atmosphere. We are happy to give you suggestions for any instrumentalists. In most cases, the musicians do not attend the rehearsal. Only approved organists may be used for weddings in the Worship Center. The organist/pianist will play for the ceremony and a sound check for forty-five (45) minutes prior to your wedding. Additional rehearsals, transposing music, or any additional requests will have additional expenses.

## SOLOISTS

We suggest using musicians that do this on a regular basis. If you have a friend or family member that you would like to participate in your wedding, be sure you have heard this person and enjoy their talents. If you do not know of anyone, we can assist you in this area.

## 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. The cd should be turned into the events/wedding coordinator the week before your wedding so the sound technician is able to make sure it works within our system. We suggest that you have an additional cd available as back-up.

## VIDEO MONTAGE

A short montage can be an interesting addition to your wedding. However, it is to be viewed prior to the processional. Your video must be produced on a DVD and given to the events/wedding coordinator along with your cd the week before your wedding.

## FLOWERS & DECORATIONS

It is the responsibility of the bride to arrange with a florist for flowers and decorations for the wedding and reception. You may feel free to rent furnishings of your choice. Please discuss your plan and receive the approval of the Events/Wedding coordinator before you actually make any rental arrangements

We also have some items that may be used free of charge. Discuss this with your coordinator as well. Nails, tacks, brackets or scotch tape are not to be used on anything within the church facilities. Only materials such as masking tape may be used to attach bows on the pews. You will need to purchase the three candles for the unity lighting if you plan to have this a part of your ceremony. You will need one 3" diameter candle between 9-11 " tall and two 12" taper candles. You may choose to have a sand ceremony instead of the unity candle. You will need to provide all materials necessary for a sand ceremony.

## THE REHEARSAL

It is important that every member of the wedding party attend the rehearsal. At that time the Coordinator will conduct and review all the details of your ceremony. This rehearsal is the dress rehearsal for your wedding. Decisions made and finalized at the rehearsal should not be changed on your wedding day.

The Officiating Pastor, musicians and sound technicians do not normally attend the rehearsal. If they are requested to do so additional charges may apply.

## THE RECEPTION

If you decide to hold your reception on campus the Events Coordinator will discuss fees and assist you with decisions such as caterers, decorating etc. Rooms typically used for receptions are:

1. Community Center ....Capacity -380
2. Room G-2.....Capacity – 115
3. Room G-1.....Capacity – 50

Reception costs ( see fee chart) include the Reception Coordinator and the Custodial Staff. Both are required at all receptions. Costs vary according to the facility used and the size of the reception. A \$100 refundable cleaning/security deposit is also required. This deposit will be returned to you after your reception less any loss or breakage fees.

Evening receptions must conclude by 8 p.m. unless prior arrangements have been made with the Reception Coordinator. To allow time to prepare for Sunday morning services, Saturday evening receptions need to conclude by 7 p.m.

#### THE MARRIAGE LICENSE

The application for a marriage license in the Sate of Arizona is made with the Maricopa County Clerk of the Superior Court. The two locations are:

222 E. Javelina Ave., Mesa, 85210 Phone: (602)506-3360

601 W. Jackson St., Phoenix 85003 Phone: (602)506-3360

**Be sure you bring the marriage license with you to the rehearsal and give to your coordinator!**

#### FOLLOWING YOUR WEDDING

We want you to know that the Pastoral Staff at Arizona Community Church is available following your wedding to provide assistance and counsel in helping make your marriage all that God wants it to be. If you have a need please contact the pastor who performed your wedding. If he is not available, another pastor will assist you.

Your wedding is a decision that is important for you, your family, your friends and for this church. We would appreciate your filling out the post- wedding evaluation form that is available on our website. Your input will help us with

future weddings, making adjustments where needed and helping us in our efforts to make every wedding the best that it can be.

We pray God's best for your new life together as one.