

# **FIVE POINTS' WEDDING GUIDELINES & FEES**

*May 8, 2020*

## **The Couple's Qualifications**

For a wedding or reception to be held at Five Points' facility, both the bride and groom must:

1. Have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.
2. Be a Five Points member or agree with our constitution & by-laws, specifically the "Statement on Marriage, Gender & Sexuality."
3. Willingly participate in premarital counseling conducted by a Five Points pastor or an approved outside counselor (this necessitates scheduling all weddings at least three months in advance).
4. Secure a proper marriage license at least 48 hours before the wedding.

For a wedding to be performed by a Five Points pastor at another location, both the bride and groom must agree to:

1. Evaluate and adhere to the biblical injunctions that Christians ought to marry only Christians (1 Corinthians 7:39; 2 Corinthians 6:14).
2. Maintain or change to a celibate, non-cohabiting lifestyle until your marriage.
3. Willingly participate in premarital counseling conducted by a Five Points pastor or an approved outside counselor (this necessitates scheduling all weddings at least three months in advance).
4. Secure a proper marriage license at least 48 hours before the wedding.

## *Special Considerations*

In the event of a pregnancy before the wedding day, the wedding will be contingent upon counseling and the decisions made concerning the child. Furthermore, the pastoral staff and elders reserve the right to postpone the wedding indefinitely if the premarital counseling reveals problems that warrant more time to resolve or to not participate in the wedding if it is determined the marriage is inadvisable or biblically prohibited.

## **Information About Officiating Pastors**

### *Non-Five Points Pastors*

We only allow non-Five Points pastors to officiate the ceremony and/or lead the premarital counseling who can joyfully and whole-heartedly affirm "The Gospel Coalition Statement of Faith." In the event that a Five Points pastor is not performing the ceremony or participating in it, you must choose a Five Points pastor as a sponsor to oversee the process. The sponsoring pastor will approve visiting clergy and review this handbook with him.

### *Five Points Sponsoring Pastor*

Your Five Points sponsoring pastor will be able to help guide you through the details and discuss who you would like to do your premarital counseling. It is necessary for you to have a preliminary meeting with the sponsoring pastor so that he can meet with you as a

couple at least once and to help with details of which an outside pastor might not be aware (e.g., how to make sure he can legally perform a ceremony if he is licensed in another state). A deaconess will help you to set up that meeting once a Five Points sponsoring pastor has been assigned to you.

### **Premarital Counseling**

Couples are required to complete premarital counseling with the officiating pastor, another Five Points pastor or elder, or an approved, non-Five Points pastor. It is also necessary that if the officiating pastor is not performing the premarital counseling that a meeting with the officiating pastor be scheduled.

Each pastor does premarital counseling slightly differently. Any expense for books, resources, or relationship inventories are expected to be covered by the couple. *Note: All of our pastors reserve final approval until meeting with the couple to confirm that there are no unexpected reasons why they would not, in good conscience, be able to officiate the wedding ceremony. This is not anticipated, but it is important to understand that their commitment is in some measure tentative until they have met with the couple.*

### **Wedding Rehearsals**

The rehearsal should be held the day before the wedding with all participants present (wedding party, all musicians, sound technicians, parents of both bride and groom), will be directed by your officiating pastor, and will last approximately one hour. The couple is responsible for having the details of the rehearsal and ceremony printed for the participants. These details should be discussed with the officiating pastor prior to the rehearsal date.

### **Wedding Coordinators**

Five Points does not provide a wedding planner for you. However, a deaconess will serve as your primary contact for questions you may have about using the facility and available decorations. She is not available to be present at your rehearsal or wedding to coordinate.

Once a pastor has confirmed your date with church office staff for the availability of the facility, final details will be discussed. Three weeks prior to the wedding, a deaconess will schedule a final appointment to confirm the details of your wedding.

### **Fees**

- There is a building use fee of \$450. The first \$250 will be collected as a refundable down payment due at the time of reserving the facility. The remaining \$200 is due two weeks prior to the wedding.
- Honorariums or fees for musicians, officiating pastor, or others involved in the wedding are not covered by the church or included in the above fees.