

Weddings

Congratulations! You have found the person you want to spend the rest of your life with. While we believe accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is the most important, life-changing decision you make, choosing the person which whom you will live within the sacred covenant of marriage closely follows. Now that you are ready to commit yourselves to each other, we encourage you to center your engagement, marriage and home on Christ. Because God has ordained the marriage covenant to exist between one man, one woman, and Himself, Prairie Lakes Church will only recognize and solemnize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. We are committed to helping you develop a vision for an unforgettable, God-focused ceremony.

The following guidelines are intended to help you, as a couple, plan a memorable ceremony as well as a lifetime of cherished moments.

A Prairie Lakes Church Wedding

Once you have settled on a wedding date, complete an application. We will connect you with your desired pastor as well as a mentor couple who will walk alongside you, helping you prepare for a God-honoring, love-filled marriage that will last a lifetime.

Application

- Tell us about yourself. We look forward to getting to know you and connecting with you!
- Select a pastor. Senior Pastor, John Fuller, is unavailable for weddings. We have several licensed pastors on staff and can accommodate visiting pastors, provided proof of credentials is submitted to the church at least one month before your wedding. Regardless of whether a visiting pastor officiates at your wedding, a Prairie Lakes Church pastor will be present.
- Select a date. We book only one wedding per weekend per campus and perform ceremonies on Fridays and Saturdays. The following holiday weekends are unavailable due to demands on our staff and facilities: New Year's, Easter, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and campus-specific community celebrations.

Mentoring

- Plan for success. We provide comprehensive preparation as you begin your marriage.
- Meet with your mentor couple. We are blessed to have qualified mentor couples trained to support and encourage engaged couples. You will be matched with a mentor couple based on common interests, vocations and life experiences. Mentor couples will help you develop good communication and conflict resolution skills, which will be put into practice as you discuss various marital issues.
- Discuss everything. You will spend time together talking and learning about faith, communication, conflict resolution, finances, sex, gender differences, roles, expectations and goal setting. Mentor couples draw upon rich, personal, marital experiences to answer questions from both male and female perspectives.
- Use the best tools available. You will complete PREPARE and personality inventories which identify your strengths as well as a third assessment to help you discover your primary love languages.

Your Pastor

- Get to know each other. We want your wedding to reflect who you are! Meet with your pastor and get acquainted.
- Make a plan. Your pastor will help you outline a ceremony that keeps God at its center and allows your personalities to shine.

Your On-Site Wedding Ceremony Coordinator

- Plan the details. Two months before an on-site wedding, after your final deposit is received you will be connected with a wedding ceremony coordinator. She will review details about your day, answer questions and convey pertinent information to our technical staff and our facilities department.
- Relax - we have it under control! Your wedding ceremony coordinator will oversee your rehearsal and wedding to ensure everything goes smoothly.

Rehearsal

- Our facility will typically be reserved from 5-7 p.m. the evening before your wedding for your rehearsal. Everyone involved in the ceremony should attend with the exception of live bands.
- Due to the demands on staff and space for weekend services, we are unable to accommodate rehearsal dinners or receptions of any size without exception.

Decorations

Your wedding party will be allowed into the church 2 ½ hours before your ceremony. If you would like to decorate early, you may do so during your reserved rehearsal time. When planning, please consider:

- The church does not have wedding decorations.
- No tacks, pins, glue, nails or tape of any kind may be used.
- Only dripless candles, enclosed in hurricane glass, may be used. A unity candle is allowed provided a drip cloth or protective covering is beneath it.

Wedding Details

- Bring your marriage license to your ceremony the day of your wedding.
- If you are planning live music, a sound check will be scheduled two hours before the ceremony.
- Two changing rooms will be available for your bridal party the day of your wedding. No items may be stored at our facility overnight. Hair appointments must be held off-site.
- You have use of our facility for 1½ hours after your ceremony begins. Please arrange for someone to remove all decorations, gifts and personal items from the church immediately following the ceremony.

Timing and Finances

A memorable wedding, one that reflects who you are as a couple, requires planning. The following schedules ensure a successful wedding day and marriage:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 6-18 months prior | <u>Submit</u> your application and mentoring fee. To sufficiently prepare for your marriage, we ask that you submit your application at least six months before your wedding. A mentoring fee is required with your application and covers inventories and assessments used by your mentor couple. |
| 4-12 months prior | <u>Return</u> your signed contract and deposit. Once received, we will reserve your wedding date on the Prairie Lakes Church calendar. Until these documents are both received, we can only confirm whether a location and pastor are currently available. |
| 2 months prior | <u>Submit</u> the balance of your payment. Once received, you will be connected with a wedding ceremony coordinator. |
| 1-2 weeks prior | <u>Provide</u> recorded music to your wedding ceremony coordinator to ensure it works with our systems. |

On-Site Weddings: Those held at a Prairie Lakes Church Campus

Item	Amount	Due Date
Application/Mentoring Fee	\$300	Submit 6-18 months before wedding date
Contract/Deposit*	\$250	Submit with signed contract
Wedding Fee	\$600	2 months before wedding date

* Your deposit will be returned one month after your ceremony, less damage fees if incurred.

Off-Site Weddings: Those held somewhere other than a Prairie Lakes Church Campus

Item	Amount	Due Date
Application/Mentoring Fee	\$300	Submit 6-18 months before wedding date
Contract/Wedding Fee	\$250	Submit with signed contract
Travel Fee	varies	2 months before wedding date

Travel expenses are waived for ceremonies held within a 15-mile radius of a pastor's home campus and vary based on whether a rehearsal is required.

Wedding Application - Groom

Name	DOB
Address	City, State ZIP
Phone	Email
Occupation/Field of Study	Hobbies/Interests
Previous Marriage? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I have been married before. <input type="radio"/> When did your previous marriage legally end? _____ <input type="radio"/> How did your previous marriage end? <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce <input type="checkbox"/> Death <input type="checkbox"/> No, this is my first marriage.	
Do you have any children? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I have children with my fiancé. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I have children from a previous relationship. <input type="checkbox"/> No, I do not have any children.	
Involvement at Prairie Lakes Church. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of PLC. Campus: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member but I attend PLC regularly. Campus: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member but I attend PLC occasionally. Campus: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member or attendee of PLC.	
Describe your spiritual background.	
Describe your current spiritual journey.	
Why do you want to get married?	

Wedding Application - Bride

Name	DOB
Address	City, State ZIP
Phone	Email
Occupation/Field of Study	Hobbies/Interests
Previous Marriage? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I have been married before. <input type="radio"/> When did your previous marriage legally end? _____ <input type="radio"/> How did your previous marriage end? <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce <input type="checkbox"/> Death <input type="checkbox"/> No, this is my first marriage.	
Do you have any children? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I have children with my fiancé or I am pregnant. Due Date: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I have children from a previous relationship. <input type="checkbox"/> No, I do not have any children.	
Involvement at Prairie Lakes Church. <input type="checkbox"/> I am a member of PLC. Campus: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member but I attend PLC regularly. Campus: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member but I attend PLC occasionally. Campus: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member or attendee of PLC.	
Describe your spiritual background.	
Describe your current spiritual journey.	
Why do you want to get married?	

Wedding Application - Couple Availability and Ceremony Details

Times Available for Pre-Marital Mentoring Sessions

Sunday _____

Monday _____

Tuesday _____

Wednesday _____

Thursday _____

Friday _____

Saturday _____

Ceremony Information

Rehearsals will take place between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. unless otherwise requested and approved. Please note your desired location may not be available.

Wedding Date _____

Firm Tentative Mentoring Only

Approximate Number of Guests: _____

Cedar Falls - Worship Center (seating for 1000)

Friday at _____ (start by 7 p.m.)

Saturday at _____ (start by 1 p.m.)

Grinnell – Worship Center (seating for 520)

Friday at _____ (start by 5:30 p.m.)

Saturday at _____ (start by 5:30 p.m.)

Cedar Falls – Chapel (seating for 175)

Friday at _____ (start by 7 p.m.)

Saturday at _____ (start by 1 p.m.)

Osage – Worship Center (seating for 600)

Friday at _____ (start by 5:30 p.m.)

Saturday at _____ (start by 5:30 p.m.)

Fort Dodge – Worship Center (seating for 250)

Friday at _____ (start by 5:30 p.m.)

Saturday at _____ (start by 5:30 p.m.)

Off-site

Location: _____ Time: _____

Address: _____

Will you have a rehearsal? No Yes. Date/Time: _____

Pastor Preference. Please note your desired pastor may not be available.

Chris Bowden

Shane Fuller

Andy Schumacher

Phil Culham

Jon Nance

Jesse Tink

Kyle Dana

Cory Orr

Chip Uhrmacher

After the Ceremony

Bride's Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Submit to:

Care@prairielakeschurch.org