

Contact



Prairie Lakes Church
Cedar Falls Campus
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prairielakeschurch.org

Pre-marital Counseling
Ari Henderson
319.830.4476
ari.henderson@prairielakeschurch.org

*Congratulations
on Your
Engagement*

While we believe accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior is the most important, life-changing decision you make, choosing the person with whom you will live within the sacred covenant of marriage closely follows. Now that you have chosen to commit yourselves to each other, we encourage you to center your engagement, marriage and home on Christ.

At Prairie Lakes Church, we commit ourselves to helping you develop your vision for your wedding day into a God-focused, unforgettable ceremony. We also commit ourselves to helping you prepare for a God-honoring, love-filled marriage lasting a lifetime.

Fees breakdown:

PLC Pastor	\$200
Facility/Custodian	\$100
plus \$25/hr over 4 hours	
AV Technicians	\$100
plus \$35/hr over 4 hours	
Wedding Hostess	<u>\$100</u>
	\$500

*Please make checks payable to
Prairie Lakes Church.*

Premarital Counseling Fee

\$250 The fee covers the cost of the required premarital counseling (Step 2). Bring your payment to your first session.

*Please make check payable to
Ari Henderson.*

After Wedding

- Your security deposit will be returned to you provided there is no damage.
- Your pastor will sign and file your wedding license.

Financial

Responsibilities

The fees for holding a wedding at Prairie Lakes Church are as follows:

\$250 The security and reservations deposit is required. This deposit will be refunded after the wedding provided no damage was done to the facility or church property. If a cancellation is received before the wedding, the couple forfeits the reservation deposit.

\$500 Due one week before the wedding, this amount includes the fees for the pastor and wedding coordinator throughout the planning process, usage of the facility for the rehearsal and ceremony, including setup and teardown and the custodian and AV technicians for up to four hours. Plans that include our custodians for more than four hours will be billed at \$25 per extra hour, \$35 per extra hour for AV technicians.

1 Application

Begin planning for your wedding day by completing and submitting a wedding application to the Prairie Lakes Church Wedding Coordinator. The application is available online at prairielakeschurch.org and should be submitted no later than six months prior to your proposed wedding date.

Your application will be reviewed. Upon approval, you are ready to:

- Begin Pre-Marital Counseling
- Plan Your Ceremony

2 Premarital Counseling

Prairie Lakes Church is committed to providing comprehensive preparation for you and your fiancé as you begin the marital journey. Premarital counseling is required of all couples getting married at Prairie Lakes Church or by one of its pastors at another location. The counseling process needs to begin six months before the wedding. Arrange your sessions by contacting:

Ari Henderson at 319.830.4476 or ari.henderson@prairielakeschurch.org

Premarital counseling consists of eight to ten sessions outlined as follows:

The Inventory

Each couple will take a premarital inventory which will be used by the counseling team to focus on a couple's strengths and help them develop communication and conflict resolution skills.

The Counselor

A minimum of four sessions will be spent with a licensed marriage and family therapist. They will focus on sexual relationship, family of origin, finances, as well as the areas featured in the premarital inventory.

The Mentor Couple

Prairie Lakes Church is blessed to have a group of seasoned, mature couples trained to support and encourage engaged couples. Offering both male and female perspectives, mentor couples will listen and respond to questions. They will spend a minimum of four sessions teaching communication and conflict resolution tools and couple prayer. Couples are paired based on common interests, vocations and personalities.

1 Month

If you plan to have a visiting pastor sign and file the marriage license, Prairie Lakes Church requires proof that he or she is a recognized Christian pastor. Provide the confirmation information on church or denominational stationery and deliver it to your wedding coordinator at least one month prior to the wedding.

1 Week

- Submit payment to the church. (pages 10-11)
- Turn in any recorded music on one CD in the order to be played.

1 Day

- Hold the wedding rehearsal—be sure to bring your marriage license. No wedding can occur without a marriage license.
- Decorate

Wedding Day

- Cedar Falls—you may choose to get dressed at the church; however hair appointments must be made off-site.
- Plan to have someone remove all your items from the church. Prairie Lakes Church is not responsible for items left behind.
- Multi-sites—discuss details with the campus pastor.

Planning Your Rehearsal

The wedding rehearsal is typically held the evening before the ceremony. After your wedding date is approved, the wedding coordinator will schedule your rehearsal and confirm a time when your locations and pastor are available. Everyone involved in the wedding should attend.

We regret that we are unable to accommodate requests for rehearsal dinners and wedding receptions at our facility. Our wedding coordinator can recommend local restaurants and reception halls as an alternative.

Timeline

6-18 Months

- Complete an online wedding application (Step 1)
- Turn in your deposit and Facility Usage Agreement. (page 10-11)

6 Months

- Begin your premarital counseling (Step 2)

3 Months

- Plan your ceremony (Step 3)

The Marrying Pastor

One to two sessions with the marrying pastor will focus on what scripture says about marriage and planning the ceremony.

3 Planning Your Ceremony *- The Cedar Falls Campus*

The Date

The Prairie Lakes Church Wedding Coordinator will help you schedule your wedding. To provide your wedding the attention it deserves, we book only one wedding per weekend. The following weekends are not available: New Years, Easter, Memorial Day, Sturgis Falls, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Time

Friday Weddings:

- Ceremony begin no later than 7 p.m.
- All activities concluded (including cleanup) by 9 p.m.

Saturday Weddings:

- Ceremony begin no later than 1 p.m.
- All activities concluded (including cleanup) by 2:30 p.m.

Sunday weddings are not available.

The Location

- The Cedar Falls Campus

Weddings are held either in the Chapel or the Worship Center. An ideal location for most weddings, the Chapel features wrap-around seating, which makes guests feel as though they are a part of the ceremony. The Chapel seats up to 250 people. Larger weddings, up to 1,000 guests, may be held in the Worship Center.

Prairie Lakes Church Multi-sites: check with your campus pastor for exact date and time availability.

Your Pastor

Prairie Lakes Church is home to several pastors licensed to perform weddings. Every effort will be made to match you with your desired pastor (as indicated on your application form): however, availability is determined by a number of factors. We are also happy to incorporate visiting pastors into your ceremony. Even if the visiting pastor performs the entire ceremony, a Prairie Lakes Church pastor will be present the day of your wedding.

Planning Your Ceremony with Your Pastor

The pastor will guide you through outlining a ceremony that keeps God at its center and allows your personalities to shine through. This includes selecting the order of events, choosing scripture readings and conveying the significance of each element.

Coordinating the Details with the Wedding Coordinator

After you have outlined the ceremony with your pastor, make an appointment with your assigned wedding coordinator. She will review the day with you, help you make final decisions and plan a timeline for setup, deliveries, arrivals and teardown.

Your wedding coordinator will be your contact at the church for all wedding related questions. She will relay your wishes to the church staff, including any technical aspects you have incorporated into your ceremony. The coordinator will be present at the rehearsal and meet you at the church on the day of your wedding to ensure that your plans flow smoothly.