

ZION REFORMED CHURCH WEDDING POLICY

Let marriage be held in honor among all . . . (Heb. 13:4)

This Wedding Policy is intended to be consistent with Holy Scripture and the laws of the State of Ohio. The Session¹ of Zion Reformed Church is required by God's word, as well as their conscience, to marry only those persons qualified for marriage according to Scripture and civil law. Couples wishing to be married at Zion Reformed Church should ensure they meet and can adhere to the following provisions prior to submitting an application:²

1. Both parties must be members in good standing of Zion Reformed Church or another like-minded evangelical Church approved by our Session.³
2. Both parties must be committed to a Christian marriage and must meet the biblical qualifications for marriage as defined by Holy Scripture.⁴ Both parties must also meet the legal qualifications for marriage as defined by the state.⁵
3. Both parties must satisfactorily complete pre-marital biblical counseling with either a pastor from Zion Reformed Church or with another like-minded evangelical pastor approved by our Session.⁶
4. The wedding officiate must be a pastor of Zion Reformed Church or another like-minded evangelical pastor approved by our Session. Guest ministers must submit ordination credentials and all details of the service (order of worship, music, vows, *etc.*) to our Session for approval.
5. Both parties must agree to abide by the *Building Use Policy* of Zion Reformed Church.
6. All aspects of the reception and wedding ceremony are not final until approved by our Session. There are no exceptions to this provision.⁷

¹ "Session" refers to the pastoral leadership of Zion Reformed Church.

² Couples who are unsure if they meet these requirements may still submit a wedding request to the Session of Zion Reformed Church for consideration. Exceptions, however, are rare.

³ Those coming from another approved Church must have *written* approval from their own pastor.

⁴ Scripture defines marriage as a covenant (a sacred, oath-bound commitment), instituted by and publicly entered into before God, between one man and one woman for life (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:1-12). If either party has been previously married, remarriage *may* be permissible, but only according to the following Biblical provisions:

1. If the applicant's divorced spouse is deceased (Rom. 7:1-3).
2. In some cases, if the divorce occurred as a result of adultery (Matt. 19:9) or abandonment (I Cor. 7:15).

⁵ In some instances, parental consultation may be requested by our Session even for couples legally of age to marry.

⁶ We want to be clear that going through the pre-marital biblical counseling does not guarantee approval of the wedding request. The counseling is designed to prepare couples for marriage, but also to determine that they meet the qualifications and requirements for marriage prior to approval. After the second counseling session, the counselor will submit a recommendation to you and to the Session of Zion Reformed Church for final approval.

⁷ We are delighted to assist in this by providing ceremony guidelines and meeting with you to work out details.