

Planning a Wedding

Congratulations!

Your decision to marry is a commitment.

We **welcome** the opportunity to invest in this commitment and your upcoming marriage.

What are the specific requirements to be married at NewPointe Community Church or by an NPCC pastor?

- 1) Bride and groom must individually confess a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. NPCC will not join an unbeliever to a believer in marriage (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). God's Word is clear about spiritual compatibility between marriage partners.
- 2) Bride and groom must abstain from physical intimacy or living together. Sex is a gift from God. He is the one who created it! Therefore, we must follow God's directions alone regarding our sexuality. The Bible gives us clear instructions for sex within the parameters of the marriage relationship (2 Corinthians 6:3). God's Word also gives us clear warnings and consequences when sex is used outside of the marriage.

While many of those who come to NPCC are honoring God through abstaining from sexual intimacy, there are many who do not fall into this category. Couples who are physically intimate or are living together are asked to move apart and covenant with NPCC to abstain from their sexual relationship until their wedding day. We would like the opportunity to encourage you to make this commitment with us, understanding that this is God's best for your marriage relationship. To read a copy of this covenant, **click here**.

- 3) Bride and groom should have maintained a dating relationship for a minimum of one year by their wedding date.
- 4) At least one of the persons being married must be a participating member or regular attendee of NPCC for at least six months.
- 5) Participating in our premarital mentoring ministry is a requirement to be married at NPCC. You will be matched with a mentor couple and will meet with them a minimum of six times before your wedding date. This is a wonderful opportunity to build a relationship and learn from another married couple.
- 6) The bride and groom will meet with a member of the ministerial staff to discuss wedding plans and details. Specific requirements to be married at NPCC or by a NPCC pastor are also discussed.

If you meet the above criteria, you are ready to start planning your wedding at NPCC! Contact the church office to begin the process. At this point, we will send you a wedding packet with additional details. After reviewing the contents of the packet, you may then call the church office to set up your appointment with a pastor. Please note that due to the many requests for weddings at NPCC, your wedding should be planned a minimum of six months in advance.

Wedding FAQs

Below, we have provided answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about weddings at NewPointe Community Church:

What does pre-marriage mentoring entail?

Mentoring is done in conjunction with FOCCUS, an online premarital inventory. A team of mentors (a trained couple with a Christ-centered marriage) will guide you through the results of the inventory for approximately six to eight sessions.

Is there a cost for the mentoring?

Yes, the cost is \$50 and covers the online inventory and all materials. The mentor couples are not paid – this is their ministry. You will receive a three-ring binder in which to keep all the exercises and notes from your sessions.

What is the FOCCUS inventory?

FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication & Understanding Study) is a self-diagnostic inventory designed to help couples learn more about themselves and their unique relationship. It is not a test nor meant as a predictor of success or failure in marriage. It is a tool to help couples name and work through issues before marriage.

What areas of marriage does FOCCUS address?

Life Style Expectations, Friends & Interests, Personality Match, Personal Issues, Communication, Problem Solving, Religion & Values, Parenting Issues, Extended Family Issues, Sexuality Issues, Financial Issues, Readiness Issues, Marriage Covenant. It also addresses additional categories of Dual Careers, Interfaith Marriage, Remarriage and Cohabiting Couples.

Why is mentoring required for marriage at NewPointe?

Statistics have proven that couples who go through a mentoring process before they get married are much more likely to stay married. You will spend time preparing and training for a new job; why shouldn't you do the same in preparing for the biggest relationship decision of your life? Mentoring is a way of investing in your future and preparing yourself for a lifelong marriage.

What are the fees for having a wedding at the NewPointe Dover Campus?

There is no fee charged for the use of NewPointe facilities; however, there is a \$250 fee required to pay the people involved in your ceremony. This covers a sound tech, custodial support, and administrative support. A separate gratuity of \$100 to \$200 should be given to the pastor.

What is the fee for having a marriage “vow renewal” ceremony?

It depends on what size room you need and if you will need a sound tech or other support services. You should talk with the Wedding Administrator about your needs to get a price.

Can I have a NewPointe pastor marry us at another location?

Yes, most of our pastors are willing to travel within reason to other churches or locations to perform the wedding service. We recommend a gratuity of \$100 to \$200 for the pastor.

Can we have vocalists and musicians at our wedding?

Yes, we welcome them, but you must make your own arrangements. You can contact NewPointe musicians by calling the church office at 330.602.5600. Each musician should be paid a gratuity.

If we don't have live music, can we use CDs?

Yes, but all songs for the wedding must be on one CD, or a flash drive, in order to be played, and the titles must be listed. We strongly suggest you have the completed CD or flash drive to us two weeks in advance to ensure it works on our equipment.

Can we show a video/slide show at our wedding?

Yes, our sound tech can also run the video/slide show. Again, try to have this to us early to test it on our equipment.

Can non-attendees use NewPointe's facilities for a wedding?

No, we want to be able to reserve the facility for our attendees and for other church events.

Can we have our reception at NewPointe?

Maybe – we can host smaller receptions in our café area or in our Quad rooms. We can accommodate approximately 200 to 250 people in those areas. We have a limited amount of tables and chairs available. You may need to rent some. The fee for using those areas for a reception is \$300.

Does the church have any decorations we can use for our wedding?

No, the church cannot allow our stage decorations to be used in weddings. All decorations must be rented from wedding rental businesses.

How do I request a pastor from NewPointe to marry us?

You can discuss that with our Pastor of Care or our Wedding Administrator. Several pastors are able to perform weddings, depending on their schedules.

How do I reserve space for my wedding?

You must complete the wedding application and sign the Marriage Covenant. Once those are completed you will need to meet with the Pastor of Care or the Wedding Administrator and make a deposit of \$100 to have the date reserved.

When can I get into the church to decorate?

Normally, the day before the wedding. This is usually on a Friday. We try to reserve the room for you on Friday and Saturday morning to take care of decorations. You are responsible to have all decorations out of the theater by Saturday evening.