



eastside wedding packet

Congratulations!

We share in your happiness as you formulate your wedding plans and begin the beautiful adventure of marriage. We are anxious to serve you and to do our best to make your wedding day one that will glorify God and celebrate your commitment to each other.

As we all know, a wedding celebration lasts a few hours, but a marriage lasts for a lifetime. For this reason, we encourage you to make an investment of time not only preparing for your wedding celebration but also for a lifetime of committed marriage. This handbook has been developed through prayer, experience, and careful planning. We sincerely hope that these guidelines and premarital steps will help prepare you for your day of celebration and a meaningful lifetime relationship.

Love and Blessings -

Jason Rehmel
Lead Pastor

In the original creation, God made male and female to be together. Because of this, a man leaves his father and mother, and in marriage he becomes one flesh with a woman—no longer two individuals, but forming a new unity.

Mark 10:7-8

Getting Married at Eastside

This folder contains pertinent information on how Eastside will attempt to help you build a solid foundation for your marriage relationship. Please read it in its entirety.

Step 1 Where To Start

Pick up a Wedding Packet from the Church Office or the Info Center or download from the website - www.myeastside.cc. (Since you are reading this, chances are you have already completed this step!)

Step 2 Read the Elder' Statement (Page 7)

We view the agreement to perform your wedding to be more of a partnership than a "one time event". Your responsibility in this partnership is to read the statement carefully and then honestly determine if you choose to follow these guidelines so that we can help you establish a Godly foundation for a lifetime of marriage.

Step 3 Personal Profiles

Fill out and return the personal profiles for both bride and groom and the "Request for Reservations" form (included in this packet) to the Church Office as soon as possible. If either person has been divorced, the section on divorce issues needs to be completed as well. These profiles are not a test that you will pass or fail, but rather tools to help you see key strengths and growth areas in your relationship. As with all counseling done at Eastside, all information will be kept confidential. The wedding reservation form gives you the opportunity to request your preferred officiating pastor and your preferred wedding date and time. Please do not reserve a place for your reception until after your wedding date is confirmed. **IMPORTANT!** The process for getting married at Eastside cannot continue until the profiles are received in the Church Office.

Step 4 Schedule an Initial Consultation

As soon as the profiles are received, you will be contacted to set up a consultation. During the consultation, we will discuss any questions you may have about the wedding policy (page 8); address any issues that may have surfaced during the completion of the personal profiles and provide an explanation of our fees. Following the consultation, if you choose to get married at Eastside, we will confirm your wedding date.

Step 5 Premarital Counseling

One of our most important and exciting roles as a partner in your wedding comes in helping you prepare for your lifetime commitment of marriage. We require all couples to complete a premarital evaluation that will be reviewed with you by the pastor officiating your wedding. We also require you to complete a seven part premarital counseling study with a couple from Eastside's PreMarital Counseling Team. The cost for the evaluation and the workbooks that accompany the study is \$60. Your deposit check will be due when you meet with your pastor to review your evaluation. The remaining amount should be given to the pastor at the rehearsal.

Step 6 Plan Your Wedding

Set an appointment to meet with the wedding coordinator, if you are using Eastside's facilities, anytime after the wedding date has been confirmed. The wedding coordinator's number is available through the Church Office 513-831-4373.

The wedding coordinator has the following responsibilities:

1. Be a support person for the bride.
2. Arrange for an audio/video technician and coordinate set up and take down with the technician.
3. Advise on chapel decorating. The coordinator does not do the actual decorating, but all decorations must be approved by the coordinator.
4. Coordinate set-up and take down with facilities manager.
5. Coordinate wedding rehearsal and explain responsibilities of everyone involved in the wedding ceremony.
6. Inform the photographers of accepted practices.
7. Send wedding party in on time.

You will need to apply for your marriage license six weeks to a month in advance of your wedding date. If you live in Clermont County, please call (513) 732-7243. If you live in Hamilton County, please call (513) 946-3600.

Schedule an appointment to meet with your officiating pastor.

The officiating pastor's responsibilities include:

1. Reviewing your evaluation.
2. Assisting in planning a ceremony, which is a unique and special celebration before God for your marriage and life together.
3. Sharing a message for your wedding.

Step 7 Wedding Day!

May God bless your ceremony, as you have been faithful to build upon His foundation and design for your marriage.

Tips For Getting Started

We understand the amount of planning and work ahead of you and offer the following suggestions for an unforgettable wedding day and an incredible marriage.

- * Take your time. Even before engagement we would love to talk to any couple considering marriage about the key areas of a vital, healthy, and growing relationship.
- * Plan ahead. We recommend at least four months for planning your wedding as well as preparing for your marriage.
- * Communicate with each other. Use the personal profile to learn more about each other and your relationship together.
- * Walk with God. Attend the weekend services at Eastside Christian Church to help you grow in your relationship with God and with each other.

Facilities

There are numerous activities and events that take place in our building every week. Due to our current weekend worship schedule, we are limited to weddings being scheduled on Fridays, beginning no later than 7:30 pm (no receptions available).

Facility Guidelines

- * No drinking of alcoholic beverages in any part of Eastside's building or grounds.
- * We would ask that no rice, confetti, or bird seed is thrown on the church property because of the amount of cleanup involved.
- * The Facilities Department will move all furniture as prearranged with the wedding coordinator as indicated: on the "Request for Wedding Reservation" form. A charge of \$50 will be assessed for any major changes in the room setup design that occurs within 72 hours of the event.
- * Candelabras are available for use during the ceremony, but all candles must be provided by the couple and only dripless candles are permitted.

Wedding Fees

Auditorium

Member	\$550
Non-Member	\$750

Room 200

Member	\$400
Non-Member	\$500

Fees include the following:

Use of the facility
Pastor's Honorarium
Wedding Coordinator
Audio/Video Technician
Maintenance Fee
Set up/Tear down

Off Campus Wedding: The fee is \$200 - Payable to Eastside Christian Church at the time a pastor is reserved for your wedding date.

Reception: Receptions are not available at Eastside.

Deposit: A deposit of \$100 will be collected when you meet with your pastor to review your evaluation.

Cancellation Policy: You may cancel your scheduled wedding date at any time by contacting your Wedding Coordinator. However, if you have met with your Coordinator regarding your wedding, the deposit is non-refundable.

Video: A video can be played during the ceremony for an additional \$50, but is contingent upon scheduling a video tech.

Payment: The deposit is due when you meet with your pastor to review your evaluation. The remaining amount is due to the pastor at the rehearsal. All checks are payable to Eastside Christian Church.

Rehearsal

- * The Wedding Coordinator will schedule the wedding rehearsal.
- * The bride, groom, best man, maid (matron) of honor, attendants, flower girl, ring bearer, ushers, candlelighters, and parents are needed at the rehearsal.
- * The Wedding Coordinator will show you the separate dressing rooms that will be available before the wedding.
- * We would request that any changes in the ceremony plans be made with the Wedding Coordinator prior to the rehearsal. There will be no changes between the rehearsal time and ceremony without approval from the Officiating Pastor and Wedding Coordinator.
- * Please present the marriage license to the Officiating Pastor on the day of the rehearsal.

Wedding Ceremony

- * If pictures are being taken before the wedding, all members of the wedding party need to arrive at the church at least an hour and half before the ceremony. Otherwise please arrive at least one hour before the wedding.
- * Please clear all music with the pastor at the time of your review.
- * If video taping the ceremony, please leave the camera stationary on a tripod.

“Don’t marry the person you think you can live with.
Marry the one you can’t live without.”

Eastside Christian Church Elders’ Statement on Marriage

Eastside Christian Church is committed to building strong marriages, and we therefore want to do everything possible to help you, as a couple, develop a solid foundation from the very beginning of your marriage. We view the agreement to perform your wedding to be more of a partnership than a “one time event.” Our responsibility in this partnership is to give you tools for building a strong marriage and to give clear direction concerning the scriptural guidelines that God has established for marriage.

We strongly believe that God created marriage to be the ultimate expression of intimacy and commitment between a man and a woman. He has given us basic principles and guidelines that will help us to experience joy and fulfillment in marriage. This wedding policy is based on the application of these principles and other guidelines that will help you to not only have a wonderful wedding but also to increase your potential for a strong and growing marriage.

Please read these policy guidelines carefully; your responsibility in this partnership is to honestly determine if you choose to follow these guidelines so that we can enter into a partnership with you in your marriage preparation.

1. Allow four months preparation time. This will allow the time to go through the premarital counseling program. Four months does not leave much time to prepare for a marriage in the midst of preparing for a wedding.
2. Regular attendance at Eastside during the four months of preparation. Again we want to be in partnership with you and not just perform a wedding ceremony. We feel it is important for you to know who we are and what we stand for. We require that you attend a weekend service minimum of two times per month during your four month preparation time.
3. Participate in our pre-marital counseling experience. We ask everyone who gets married at Eastside to complete an evaluation and review the results of this evaluation with their officiating pastor, along with, a seven part premarital counseling study. The cost of this \$60. Once you have submitted your personal profiles, we will contact you to schedule completing this evaluation and the follow up sessions.
4. If divorced, at least one year of legal divorce must pass before consideration for remarriage. We believe a new relationship should not be pursued until the potential of a healthy reconciliation has been exhausted and time for personal recovery has passed. (1st Corinthians 7:10-11)
5. A believer should only marry another believer. Scripture is very clear that those who have given their lives to Christ, and who live in an authentic relationship with

Him, should not be joined together with someone who has not also been transformed by Jesus Christ. For this reason we will not conduct a wedding that joins a Christian together with a non-Christian. (1st Corinthians 7:39, 2nd Corinthians 6:14-16, 1st John 5:1-5).

6. Commitment to sexual purity prior to marriage. Couples who are living together or who are currently involved in physical relationships must be willing to separate and abstain from sexual intimacy until after marriage. The principle of sexual purity prior to marriage is very clear in scripture (1st Thessalonians 4:3-8, 1st Corinthians 6:18-20)

Obviously the choice to follow these guidelines in order to be able to be married at Eastside or by one of Eastside's pastors is up to you. We sincerely hope that you will choose to follow these principles (whether or not you decide to get married at Eastside) because we believe they will be highly beneficial to your marriage. If you have any extenuating circumstances that pertain to this policy and you feel warrant special consideration or if you wish to have a non-Eastside pastor perform the ceremony on the Eastside campus, you are invited to express this in written form and a team will review your request.

God bless you both as you begin this new journey together!

Adopted 10/19/04

Marriage Preparation Personal Profile (Bride)

I have read this packet thoroughly and understand that we will be contacted for an initial consultation upon completion and return of our profiles to Eastside. This material will be kept confidential and used only to help us assess our strengths and growth areas as a couple.

Bride's Name _____ Occupation _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Age _____

Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Yes _____ No _____

Are you a member of Eastside Christian Church? Yes _____ No _____

Do you attend Eastside Christian Church? Regularly _____ Occasionally _____
Seldom _____ Never _____

Do you have any past or current ministry involvement at Eastside? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, what ministries have you been involved in?

Have you been previously married? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, how many times _____

Reason marriage ended? Death _____ Divorce _____

If divorced, when was the divorce legally final? _____

If you have children, what are their names and ages? _____

How long have you been dating? _____ Is the bride pregnant? Yes ___ No ___

Are you currently living together? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, how long? _____

Has another pastor refused to marry you? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, who? _____

Do you have any questions you would like to have answered during your initial consultation? Yes ___ No ___ If yes, state here: _____

Please sign one of the options below:

Option #1: I am committed to a partnership with the church to assist us in the development of a healthy God honoring relationship. It is our desire to abide by the standards of the church as outlined in the Elders' Policy.

Bride _____ Date _____

Option #2: I am committed to a partnership with the church to assist us in the development of a healthy God honoring relationship. We have questions about the Elders' Policy and/or had difficulty answering some of the inventory questions. We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss these issues in person.

Bride _____ Date _____

Divorce Issues

(Bride)

The following questions should be completed if either you or your spouse-to-be has been divorced.

1. Who filed for divorce and on what grounds?
Summarize the problems in your previous marriage(s) which led to your divorce.

What part of the above problems was your responsibility? What steps have you taken to be sure this will not happen again?

2. In what ways have you sought forgiveness from your former spouse and children for contributions to the breakup?

What steps have you taken to work through the pain of your divorce? (e.g. guilt, rejection, anger, loneliness, etc.) How long has this taken?

3. Have you communicated with your children your plans for remarriage?
Yes_____ No_____ If yes, what is their response?

If there are children from the previous marriage living with you, what methods of discipline have you discussed?

Marriage Preparation Personal Profile (Groom)

I have read this packet thoroughly and understand that we will be contacted for an initial consultation upon completion and return of our profiles to Eastside. This material will be kept confidential and used only to help us assess our strengths and growth areas as a couple.

Groom's Name _____ Occupation _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Age _____

Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Yes _____ No _____

Are you a member of Eastside Christian Church? Yes _____ No _____

Do you attend Eastside Christian Church? Regularly _____ Occasionally _____

Seldom _____ Never _____

Do you have any past or current ministry involvement at Eastside? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, what ministries have you been involved in?

Have you been previously married? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, how many times _____

Reason marriage ended? Death _____ Divorce _____

If divorced, when was the divorce legally final? _____

If you have children, what are their names and ages? _____

How long have you been dating? _____ Is the bride pregnant? Yes _____ No _____

Are you currently living together? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, how long? _____

Has another pastor refused to marry you? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, who? _____

Do you have any questions you would like to have answered during your initial consultation? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, state here: _____

Please sign one of the options below:

Option #1: I am committed to a partnership with the church to assist us in the development of a healthy God honoring relationship. It is our desire to abide by the standards of the church as outlined in the Elders' Policy.

Groom _____ Date _____

Option #2: I am committed to a partnership with the church to assist us in the development of a healthy God honoring relationship. We have questions about the Elders' Policy and/or had difficulty answering some of the inventory questions. We welcome the opportunity to meet and discuss these issues in person.

Groom _____ Date _____

Divorce Issues

(Groom)

The following questions should be completed if either you or your spouse-to-be has been divorced.

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1. Who filed for divorce and on what grounds?
Summarize the problems in your previous marriage(s) which led to your divorce.

What part of the above problems was your responsibility? What steps have you taken to be sure this will not happen again?

2. In what ways have you sought forgiveness from your former spouse and children for contributions to the breakup?

What steps have you taken to work through the pain of your divorce? (e.g. guilt,

rejection, anger, loneliness, etc.) How long has this taken?

3. Have you communicated with your children your plans for remarriage?
Yes_____ No_____ If yes, what is their response?

If there are children from the previous marriage living with you, what methods of discipline have you discussed?

Request For Wedding Reservation

Today's Date _____

Bride's Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Groom's Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Address following wedding _____

City/State _____ Zip _____

First Choice:

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

Second Choice:

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____

Location: _____

There are numerous activities and events that take place in the building of Eastside Christian Church every day. When this busy schedule is combined with our weekend worship schedule, we are limited to weddings scheduled on Fridays beginning no later than 7:30 pm. The curfew on the building for Friday is 10:00 pm. There are many variables when determining a wedding date, and we would like to accommodate your first choice. However, if the building is already being used on that date and time we may need to try your second choice. For this reason no wedding date is confirmed until we have compared this request form to Eastside's master calendar and you have had your initial consultation. Please note, that we schedule wedding dates no more than 12 months in advance.

We know that you may have a pastor that you would like to perform your ceremony, but many times pastors have their weekends scheduled far in advance. Please write your choices in the following blanks, and we will find out who is available and do our best to give you the pastor of your choice.

Pastor

First Choice _____

Second Choice _____

Third Choice _____

For Office Use Only _____

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____

Please print, sign and date to verify approval:

Initial Staff Contact: _____

Facilities Manager: _____

Officiating Pastor: _____

Audio/Video Technician: _____

Executive Pastor: _____

Wedding Coordinator: _____

Date Deposit Received: _____ Check No: _____

Date Final Payment Received: _____ Check No: _____

Updated August 2010