



Meridian Baptist Church
660 South Third Street, El Cajon, CA 92019
Phone: (619) 444-3171

Marriage and Wedding Policy of Meridian:

Marriage is a union ordained by God. It was first instituted by God in the early chapters of Genesis, codified in the Levitical law, the Old Testament prophets compared it to a relationship between God and his people, examples of it are in the historical narratives, and, the wisdom literature discusses the unique unity of this relationship. Jesus explained the original intention and core elements of marriage, and several New Testament Epistles give explicit instructions on this union. Marriage is a typology of Christ and the Church. As such, the Church views marriage as a profound spiritual institution established by God. Due to the importance of marriage in the biblical witness, this church adopts the following policy:

Clergy:

1. Weddings in a Christian church signify the beginning of a Christian marriage. Only duly ordained clergy shall officiate at marriage ceremonies conducted on church property. Approval of clergy selected to officiate at a wedding ceremony is provided in advance by the Pastor.
2. Clergy employed by the church shall be subject to dismissal and/or loss of ordination for officiating at or allowing a same gender marriage ceremony at the church.
3. Clergy officiating marriage ceremonies on church premises, whether or not employed by the church, shall affirm their agreement with the Articles of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
4. The clergy assigned by the church to implement the procedures contained in this Marriage Policy may, in his sole discretion, decline to make church facilities available for, and/or decline to officiate at, a ceremony when, in his judgment, there are significant concerns that one or both of the applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred bond of marriage for theological, doctrinal, moral or legal reasons.

Applicants:

1. Applicants wishing to have a ceremony performed by a member of the clergy employed by the church, or to use the church facilities, shall affirm their agreement with the Articles of Faith and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.
2. A wedding is a one-day event, but a marriage will last for decades. Marriages should be carefully prepared. Our church requires a preparation course for all those being married in our church. Applicants shall receive premarital counseling by clergy or counselors employed by the church, have appropriate training, experience, and spiritual understanding to provide such counseling. The fee for counseling is outlined in the fee

schedule and is due at the start of the counseling course. This course must be completed before the wedding date.

Other Wedding Considerations:

1. Our church's wedding consultants are experienced in helping the rehearsal and wedding flow smoothly and efficiently. They are great assistants to the wedding party and our Pastor. A wedding consultant is highly recommended for all weddings.
2. Scheduling of rehearsals, weddings and receptions will be done as follows:
 - a. The church calendar will be consulted, with priority to Meridian's scheduled activities.
 - b. Members of Meridian may request a date six months in advance. Non-members may request a date three months in advance.
 - c. Our Church Council has the final approval on all dates. Dates are tentative until approved by Meridian's Church Council.
3. The fees for personnel providing services to the wedding party and for the use of the facilities are due in full by the rehearsal date.
4. The church janitor or his or her representative, that is familiar with the set up of the church facilities, is required for all weddings. This requirement satisfies the need to have the church properly prepared for the wedding and for Meridian's regular services.
5. The use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or smoking are not permitted in any building, or in the premises. The presence of these substances will result in immediate cancellation of the wedding and/or reception. The bride and groom are responsible to communicate this to all members of their wedding party and guests and to assure compliance with this policy.