

## *Wedding Policy*

### **Introduction:**

This is a policy statement based on the beliefs of Christ Alone Church regarding Christian marriage.

### **What We Believe About Christian Marriage:**

We at Christ Alone Church believe that marriage is an institution ordained by God, and intended as a lifelong union of one man and one woman. Marriage is a gift from God designed to both glorify Him and to bless us. As such, marriage provides “for the mutual help of husband and wife and for the development of their moral and spiritual character, and for the propagation of children who are to be reared in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (*EPC Book of Worship* § 5-1).

Our belief is based on the teaching of the Scripture in both the Old and New Testaments and begins with the account of creation in Genesis chapters 1 and 2 in which God created man in his own image, both male and female. This portion of Scripture also provides that a unity of one man and one woman is necessary to fully represent the image of God in mankind. The complementary, relational nature of the human race as “male and female” reflects the created order given by God when he created human beings “in His image.”

Jesus Christ himself reaffirms this teaching when as recorded in Matthew 19: 4-6, he answered, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘Therefore a man will leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let not man separate” (ESV).

The Apostle Paul states in Ephesians 5: 22-32 that marriage is not merely a human institution, but it is a special divine metaphor that is supposed to illustrate the union of Jesus Christ and the church...His church. For this reason also, only a union between one man and one woman can properly illustrate the relationship between Christ and His church.

Christ Alone Church follows and will follow what the Bible, the true Word of God, reveals about marriage. The Church is called to teach and practice these teachings and is not at liberty to depart from these teachings for any authority which comes in conflict with God’s clear design for our lives.

*Therefore:*

**Christ Alone Church Policy On Marriage:**

It is our policy that the facilities of Christ Alone Church may not be used for any ceremony that in any way approves of, solemnizes, supports or allows any union that is not between one man and one woman. It is also our policy that no pastor or member of Christ Alone Church staff shall officiate at any ceremony designed to approve of, solemnize, support or allow such a union. Nor may any member of Christ Alone Church enter into such a union without being subject to church discipline. Furthermore, a civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by Christ Alone Church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of marriage found in this policy statement.

**Who May Be Married At Christ Alone Church:**

We believe that Christian marriage is a commitment between one man and one woman, founded on your commitment to Jesus Christ. Therefore, those joined in this union are ones who have professed Christ and who have a close relationship with the church, such as membership of bride, groom, and/or parents, through pastoral relationships, or through active involvement in our church community.

**Act Of Worship:**

We consider that wedding services are worship services before God, conducted in His honor according to His Word. We seek to please Him in these services, both for the joy of worshiping Him in celebration, and in order to be able to ask Him to bless the marriage.

**Questions:**

The entire *Wedding Policy* may be downloaded in PDF format. The *Preliminary Questionnaire, Premarital Counseling Guidelines*, and the *Wedding Request and Information Form* may also be downloaded in Word format. For more information about our wedding policy or to schedule an initial interview with Pastor Tromble, please contact the church office at (920) 857-3231.

## *Preliminary Questionnaire*

Prior to initial interview by the pastor, please respond to the following questions and bring your **individual** responses to the initial interview:

Bride's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Talk about your spiritual journey, including key events and persons?

1. What are some of the key elements in a Christian marriage?
2. Briefly describe your home when you were growing up.
3. What led you to choose your spouse as a life mate?
4. Describe your involvement in the Christ Alone church family.
5. Is there any additional information you would like to provide?

## *Premarital Counseling Guidelines*

I understand the following guidelines for participation in premarital counseling, and I agree to accept them:

1. Participate in premarital counseling.
2. Be sexually abstinent and maintain separate living quarters until after the wedding.
3. Regularly attend CAC worship services or attend another Bible-teaching church of your choosing.
4. A visit as a couple with a physician is recommended to discuss sexuality, sexual dysfunction, and birth control. It is strongly suggested that the medical appointment include a blood test for communicable diseases.

Bride-to-be Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom-to-be-Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**This form is to be completed and given to the Pastor at the initial interview.**

**Wedding Request and Information Form**  
(Complete only the lines that apply to your wedding.)

**Woman:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Best phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Best e-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Man:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Best phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Best e-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**CAC Member:**     Bride             Groom  
                          Bride's Parents (Names: \_\_\_\_\_)  
                          Groom's Parents (Names: \_\_\_\_\_)  
If not CAC, Bride is a member of \_\_\_\_\_ and  
Groom is a member of \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Wedding:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time of Wedding:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of Wedding: \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Rehearsal:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time of Rehearsal:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Location of Rehearsal (if different from wedding): \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you using a wedding consultant?** Y/N (circle one)

**Best Man:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Attendants:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Maid/Matron of Honor:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Attendants:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Ring Bearer:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Flower Girl:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Candle Lighters:** \_\_\_\_\_

(If *Christ Alone Church's* candelabra are used, wedding party provides candles.)

**Ushers:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bride's Mother & Father:**

Will they be present at the wedding? Y/N (circle one)

Are they still married to one another? Y/N (circle one)

Bride's Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Will he escort the bride? Y/N (circle one)

Bride's Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If bride's mother and father are no longer married to one another, what will be the seating arrangement at the wedding? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Groom's Mother & Father:**

Will they be present at the wedding? Y/N (circle one)

Are they still married to one another? Y/N (circle one)

Groom's Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

If groom's mother and father are no longer married to one another, what will be the seating arrangement at the wedding? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What **grandparents** will be present at the wedding? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Will **rings** be exchanged? Y/N (circle one)

Will a *Candle Ceremony* be included? Y/N (circle one)

If so, what will be the format?

---

---

---

---

**Gifts/Expressions to Mothers/Grandmothers?** Y/N (circle one)

If so, what will they be?

---

---

**Music.**

---

---

---

---

**Musicians.**

---

---

---

---

Will **"readers"** be included? Y/N (circle one)

If "yes," please list their names and what they will be reading.

---

---

---

---

Will an **aisle runner** be used? Y/N (circle one)

Do you wish to be introduced? Y/N (circle one)

If "yes," how do you wish to be introduced: Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_, "Bob & Mary" \_\_\_\_\_

**Other:**

---

---

---

---

**Officiating Pastor:** \_\_\_\_\_

If guest pastor is used, please answer the following:

**Reason for Request:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Minister's Church (including denomination):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Church Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**This form is to be completed and given to the Pastor for review and approval at the initial interview.**

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## *Wedding Guidelines: Christ Alone Church*

Weddings at Christ Alone Church are meant to be worship services and are to be conducted with reverence and dignity, as well as warmth and joy.

### Policy for Building Use during Weddings or Wedding Receptions

1. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on church premises or grounds.
2. No smoking is permitted in the church buildings.
3. Please take care when attaching flowers or decorations to the wooden pews.
4. Only metal-encased or dripless candles should be used for the wedding.
5. No flowers or decorations are to set on the musical instruments.
6. Please refrain from rearranging church furnishings in any room.
7. No throwing of rice is allowed. Birdseed or bubbles may be used but only outside the building are to be distributed outside, not inside, to guests.
8. It is the family's responsibility to remove and clean up all food, decorations, and rentals.
9. Please speak with Pastor Tromble about access to the building, if needed.

### Policy for Music and Musicians

All music should be appropriate to the solemnity of the occasion. Choose music that will point to God and show evidence of your Christian commitment. There is room for personal taste by drawing from the areas of sacred music: worship music, hymns, traditional and classical wedding music and the works of contemporary Christian artists. Pop music, show tunes, and themed songs are not appropriate. If you desire to use any music that is questionable, please contact the officiating pastor and submit the music for approval.

The wedding couple is responsible for securing and paying all musicians. It is church policy to utilize CAC organists/keyboardists for sanctuary weddings. If a CAC organist/keyboardist is not available, the officiating pastor must approve use of an outside musician. If the sanctuary organ is to be used by an individual who is unfamiliar with the instrument, a time should be scheduled for orientation and rehearsal. All musicians are encouraged to coordinate a time to practice during hours that the church is open.



## Policy for Photographers and Videographers

(It is the responsibility of the Couple to see that the photographer and videographer receive this policy)

**The officiating pastor has final say on the appropriateness of on-site photography.**

### **Photographers:**

Photographs may be taken as the wedding party comes up the aisle and as they retire. However, during the ceremony *no flash photographs* may be taken nor may photographers be on the main floor taking pictures. Non-flash photographs may be taken from the balcony during the ceremony. The photographer is not allowed to distract from the service.

**The sanctuary must be cleared of all photography 30 minutes before the wedding so that guests may be seated and pre-service music accommodated.**

### **Videographers:**

If videotaping is being done, please check with the officiating pastor with regard to the proper location of the person taping the ceremony. Generally, a stationary camera can be placed on the chancel or in the balcony but the cameraman is not allowed to distract from the service by moving and relocating during the service.

I have read and agree to abide by the *Wedding Guidelines*.

Bride-to-be Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom-to-be-Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Christ Alone Church  
505 E. Allouez Ave., Green Bay, WI 54301 Phone: (920) 857-3231**