

REV. CORY SMITH

Policies and Summary for Officiating Weddings

Because of the numerous and varied requests a pastor receives to perform weddings, it is necessary to have a written policy concerning for whom I will or will not officiate a wedding. I do not expect all who read this policy to agree with every stand I take, but at least to understand that with this statement I am attempting to avoid both the misunderstandings and the arbitrariness which could arise without such a statement.

As a pastor, I am more interested in establishing healthy marriages than I am in simply officiating at weddings. In light of this, I have adopted the following guidelines:

1. PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING

The couple must agree to regular counseling with my wife and I prior to the wedding day, at least 5 sessions, at least one week apart. We are trained facilitators through the Prepare-Enrich and we use the assessment as the foundation of our counseling sessions.

2. DEMONSTRATE COMMITMENT TO HEALTHY MARRIAGE

I retain the right to refuse or delay officiating a wedding in the event that the couple displays destructive relational patterns with no evidence of the ability or desire to address these concerns (i.e. evidence of physical, verbal, or emotional abuse; chronic inability to communicate or demonstrate any of the skills covered in the pre-marital counseling material).

3. BIBLICAL STANDARDS FOR MARRIAGE

Living out of my convictions as a Christian pastor licensed with the Brethren Church, I will only officiate weddings that align with scripture – specifically as described in the New Testament. My understanding of this marriage is a monogamous heterosexual marriage between two adults desiring to exclusively commit and share the remainder of their lives with each other.

The undersigned have read and understand the above policies.

Bride's Name (First & Last)

Groom's Name (First & Last)

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Standards costs for premarital counseling and serving as wedding officiant are shown below. All fees are due by the date of the wedding unless otherwise stated or arranged.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Initial Consultation w/ Couple	FREE
Prepare-Enrich Pre-marital assessment (paid online at time of assessment)	\$35
5 Pre-marital Counseling Sessions	\$150 (waived for church members)
» Strength and Growth Areas	
» Assertive and Active Listening	
» Personal Stress Profile	
» Couple and Family Map	
» SCOPE, Goals, and Spiritual Journey	
Optional Additional Sessions	\$30 each (waived for church members)
» "Owner's Manuals" for Couples	
» Personality Dynamics in Relationships	
Consulting Sessions for Wedding Details	FREE
Wedding Rehearsal and Ceremony	\$150 (waived for church members)
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Total Minimum Cost to Couple	\$335 (\$35 for church members)

Any Questions? Contact:

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