Grace Church of Rootstown
Wedding Policy and Premarital Counseling
GCR Members and Regular Attendees

I. Introduction

Grace Church of Rootstown ("Grace Church" or "GCR") is committed to the biblical design that God Himself set forth for marriage. In light of this, we take seriously our responsibilities as a church and as pastors in the marriage process, both before and after the wedding. Therefore, we have developed a process and philosophy in working with couples seeking to be married at Grace Church and/or being married by a pastor of this church.

This process includes the following:

- Initial inquiry made by the couple to the church office in which information will be mailed to the couple. This information consists of an application/profile, our position of a biblical marriage, and our position on divorce and remarriage;

- An application and profile to complete by the couple and submitted back to the church office;

- An interview with the couple by a pastor in which the application will be reviewed and direction will be given. **Upon approval, a time table will be established by the counseling pastor**;

- Once approved, a wedding date will be scheduled with church office and confirmation with the couple that they received a wedding packet outlining the policies, procedures, and planning of a wedding at Grace Church. The wedding coordinator is to be contacted by the bride/groom; and,

- Premarital counseling sessions scheduled, and counseling materials purchased by the couple (materials to be selected by the counseling pastor).

During the premarital counseling sessions, the pastor will guide the bride and groom in looking at their biblical roles as husband and wife, address practical matters of marriage such as finances and raising children, and address the logistics of the actual wedding ceremony.

It is the desire of the leadership at Grace Church to equip couples to become godly mates whose marriage and family will be God honoring. Therefore, we take a serious view of our

role as spiritual overseers in nurturing those couples in setting high biblical standards for their marriages.

II. Our Position of Biblical Marriage

Marriage is a holy union between a man and a woman that portrays the Biblical reality of Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:22-23). The quality of that union depends upon the couple's daily walk with Christ. (Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24, 25; Psalm 127:1).

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, Grace Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the pastors, elders and staff of Grace Church of Rootstown shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman, who have demonstrated both agreement and compliance with the requirements set forth by God and Grace Church. Finally, the facilities and property of Grace Church of Rootstown shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

Therefore, for a ceremony of Christian marriage to occur at Grace Church:

- The bride and groom meeting the above requirements must be currently a member of Grace Church or currently involved in the membership process. We do recognize potential exceptions to this requirement which would require approval by the elders at Grace Church;

- Both the bride and groom meeting the above requirements must be professing believers in Christ as their Lord and Savior and expect to worship together as a married couple wherever the Lord may lead them; and,

- As previously mentioned, a time table will be established by the counseling pastor, which will enable the pastor(s) to assist the bride and groom meeting the above requirements in the spiritual preparation for a marriage that will honor Christ and grow to be a permanent pillar in the life of the couple.

III. Our Position of Divorce and Remarriage at Grace Church

The New Testament recognizes that there are innocent victims of divorce and provides a Biblical ground for divorce in which there was unrepentant adultery by a mate or unbelieving spouse is no longer desirous to live with the other and abandons the marriage (Mark 10:11-12; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16). If the above scenario is true of one or both members

of the couple seeking to be married at Grace Church, we believe according to Scripture that there is an acceptable, Biblical case for remarriage. For further details regarding this issue, please see the pamphlet "A Distinctive Position of Grace Church of Rootstown on Divorce & Remarriage."

IV. Setting a Wedding Time & Date

Setting a time and date needs to be handled by the church office administrator and confirmed with the officiating/counseling pastor. Proper lead-time for premarital counseling will need to be considered. Dates currently on the church calendar gain precedence over new dates, therefore early planning gives the bride and groom greatest choices in dates and times.

Because of maintenance, clean up and preparation for Sunday worship, the following guidelines need to be followed when planning the time of your wedding:

- If your reception is at Grace Church on a Saturday, the wedding ceremony should not start later than 3:00 p.m. and your reception should finish up no later than 9:00 p.m.;

- If your reception is not at Grace Church, there are no time restraints as to the start of the ceremony; and,

- Dress Rehearsals held the evening before the wedding will be at 6:00 p.m., unless otherwise scheduled. Decorated is to take place the day of rehearsal. If this is not possible, another time can be arranged through the Grace Church office.

V. Other Items of Importance

Outside Pastors - The use of pastors being involved in the service who are not apart of Grace Church must meet with the approval of the elders of GCR. His contact information should be provided on the Wedding Application and Profile.

Tobacco and Alcohol – The wedding party and guests will refrain from the use of tobacco and alcohol on any part of the Grace Church grounds and facilities.

Audio/Visual Equipment – If you are using microphones (lapel, soloists, piano, instruments, etc.) of any kind, CD or pre-recorded music, or video projection, a Grace Church sound/video staff member will be required at both the rehearsal and ceremony.

Audio/video equipment for a Fellowship Hall reception is available but is limited to pre-recorded music and one microphone.

Photographer/Videographer – It will be the responsibility of the couple to hire a photographer and/or videographer. The church office staff can provide names of individuals if desired by the couple.

Wedding Coordinator – Grace Church requires the use of its wedding coordinator to assist the couple and officiating pastor in the details of the wedding ceremony. Initial contact must be made early in the planning process in order to communicate your needs and desires pertaining to the wedding ceremony.

Musicians and Vocalists – You are responsible in obtaining musicians and/or vocalist to be used during your ceremony. Musicians from Grace Church are available and you may obtain their names and contact information from the church office or wedding coordinator. Outside musicians/vocalist are permissible, assuming their musical capabilities allow them to use church instruments. Payment is to be made in advance (the evening of the rehearsal) and directly to the musician(s) and/or vocalist(s) in the agreed amount between you and that party.

Marriage License – It is the responsibility of the couple to secure a Marriage License in the county of their residence. Since there is a waiting period, it is recommended that you obtain this license at least two weeks before the ceremony.

Once you receive your marriage license, it is your responsibility to deliver it to the officiating pastor at the wedding rehearsal.

In addition, the groom and bride should consider a stipend for the officiating pastor. We recommend $100.00 paid directly to the officiating pastor.

Your New Address: It would be very helpful when you know your new address and phone number to inform the church office so your membership information can be updated.

Grace Church of Rootstown
Wedding Application and Profile
4808 Tallmadge Road, P.O. Box 208
Rootstown, Ohio 44272
330-325-7174

Name of Bride:_____ Age:_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Phone #:_____ (Cell) _____ (Work)_____

Name of Groom:_____ Age:_____

Address:_____

City/State/Zip:_____

Phone #:_____ (Cell) _____ (Work)_____

Tentative Wedding Date:_____ Time:_____

Tentative Rehearsal Date:_____ Time:_____

Rehearsal Dinner: ___Yes ___ No

Wedding Location: _____Date:___/___/ 20_____
Time:___:___am /pm_____
Address:_____

Approved by GCR Elders: Updated October 29, 2025

Rehearsal Location: _____ Date: ___/___/20_____
Time: ___:___ am /pm_____

Address: _____

Reception Location: _____ Date: ___/___/20_____
Time: ___:___ am /pm_____

Address: _____

Requested GCR Pastor to Officiate Wedding: _____

Outside Pastors: (Must Meet Approval of GCR Elders)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: (___) _____ Cell: (__) _____

Number in Wedding Party:

_____ Ushers _____ Brides Maids _____ Flower Girl _____ Ring Bearer

Fellowship Hall Reception: ___Yes ___ No Number of Expected Guests: _____

Sound technician needed: ___Yes ___ No

By completing this form, the above-mentioned individuals acknowledge that they have read Grace Church of Rootstown's position as to marriage, its Wedding Policy, and state that each agree with the terms of those documents.

Bride Signature _____ **Date** _____

Groom Signature _____ **Date** _____

Office Use Only

Date Received: _____; Officiating Pastor: _____; Date Coordinator Informed: _____

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