

Horizons Community Church (HCC)

Prerequisites for a wedding ceremony to be held at HCC.

1) What are the specific requirements to be married by a Horizons Community Church pastor? All premarital couples must complete a six session Marriage Preparation Class. This involves meeting with the officiating Pastor and working your way through a pre-determined study called, "Preparing for Marriage."

At the end of the six sessions the Pastor and the Couple will determine if there are any issues or concerns that could possibly delay or prevent the marriage from moving forward.

In addition, the Management Leadership Team of HCC has determined the following qualifications, based on Biblical truths:

A) Bride and groom must individually confess a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. HCC will not marry unbelievers, or join an unbeliever to a believer in marriage (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). God's Word is clear about spiritual compatibility between marriage partners.

B) Bride and groom must abstain from physical intimacy or living together. Sex is a gift from God. He is the one who created it! Therefore, we must follow God's directions regarding our sexuality. The Bible gives us clear instructions for sex: it is only to be enjoyed within the parameters of the marriage relationship (2 Corinthians 6:3). God's Word also gives us clear warnings and consequences when sex is used outside of the marriage.

While many of those considering marriage who attend HCC are honoring God through abstaining from sexual intimacy, there are many others that do not fall into this category. Couples who are physically intimate or are living together are asked to move apart and covenant with HCC to abstain from their sexual relationship until their wedding day. Although this can be financially difficult for a time, the long-term benefits to your marriage and the eternal rewards of obedience to God's word will far outweigh the temporary costs or inconveniences.

2) Can we have our wedding at HCC in the main sanctuary (auditorium)? Yes, but do to certain constraints and the importance of Sunday mornings, there are some limitations. See below:

A) The set that is designed and in place for the particular series can not be altered or removed. Many hours of hard work go into the design and construction of these amazing sets and are a part of who HCC is. They can not in any way be altered, moved, hidden, or taken down for any reason. As a matter of fact, many couples have loved the fact that they have been there because it helps to give friends and family a truer perspective of where they worship on a regular basis.

B) The instruments and where they are located on the stage can not be altered or removed. Much like the set design, many hours go into setting the applicable instruments in precisely the right location. They require tuning and adjusting and can very easily be disturbed to the point where they do not function as intended.

C) Are there alternate locations within HCC that we could hold our ceremony? Absolutely, weddings have been performed in our Soul Café and Youth Room on a number of occasions. If you are planning a smaller wedding (less than roughly 100 people) these may be two great alternatives.



4) Can we have a HCC pastor marry us at a different location? Sure, as long as you have completed the pre-marital class and fulfilled the other criteria listed above. The pastor must also agree to marry you at the alternate location.

5.) The bride and groom must be involved in the life of HCC. Because we see marriage as a sacred covenant...a lifetime commitment...the connection with a faith community is critical. The church provides the support, encouragement and accountability needed to help couples hold on to their commitment to each other, and to grow together as followers of Christ. You do not need to be a member of HCC to be married here; however you must attend regularly (two times a month, minimum) for at least six months before you begin marriage preparation. Our hope is that couples married at HCC will continue to grow together as active participants in a small group and in service for God.

We understand that couples connected to HCC may live in other communities...as a result of school, military service or a job...yet want to be married at their "home church." These couples must be involved in a Christian faith community in their location. And they must make themselves available to either complete our marriage preparation class or provide authentication of an equivalent premarital counseling process through their current local church.

6.) Who will marry me? Typically it will be our current Minister of Pastoral Care.

We have read, understand and submit ourselves to the prerequisites listed above. We realize that by submitting this form it does not guarantee that we can have our wedding at HCC. Dates, availability, and a number of other external factors will contribute to the final outcome.

If you want to move forward with the process of becoming married at HCC, please sign below and return this form to the church office and put it to the attention of Todd LaVine. Once we have reviewed this document, we will immediately get you our "Planning Your Wedding at Horizons" guide. This will outline additional items for your review prior to finalizing everything and getting the date reserved.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these items further, please contact Todd LaVine at 763-413-7210 x113.

Signatures:

Groom

Bride

Groom Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Bride Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____