



Stonecreek Church Wedding Guidelines

The mission statement of Stonecreek Church is to lead people to pursue life in Jesus as their greatest passion. We believe that Christ is the glue that holds all marriages together. It is our desire to assist engaged couples in preparing for a marriage that will last a lifetime. In order to provide a solid foundation for a life-long marriage, we ask each couple to thoroughly prepare for their marriage relationship.

General Pastoral Requirements for Marriage:

1. We normally encourage a minimum of 6 months engagement.
2. We require a couple to take the pre-marital inventory PREPARE/ENRICH (\$35.00) and meet the minister's pre-marital counseling requirements. The assessment provides the minister with necessary information to best assist the couple in the marriage preparation process.

Each minister has pre-marital counseling requirements. Requirements include but are not limited to one of the following: 4-6 sessions with a minister; participation in a marriage preparation seminar at another pre-approved Bible-teaching Christian church; or an engaged couple marriage retreat. These requirements should be pre-approved by the officiating minister from Stonecreek Church.

3. Couples living together are encouraged to separate physically and abstain from further sexual relations during their engagement. In our experience, we have found that couples willing to do this demonstrate to each other their commitment and ability to remain faithful after marriage. This also establishes a strong bond of trust. Research indicates that cohabiting couples are 50% more likely to divorce within the first 10 years than couples who live separately prior to marriage. It is understood that extenuating circumstances, such as a couple owning a home together or the presence of children, may permit exceptions to this general policy. Stonecreek minister's have the liberty to choose a course of action that seems most appropriate in each individual case, keeping in mind that God's grace is sufficient for all situations. Whatever final arrangements are made prior to the wedding, the couple should have a clear understanding of the purpose of this temporary separation and should be in agreement as to its spiritual significance.

4. Our ministers will invest time in your marriage which may draw them away from other church duties and their families. Any travel expense should be reimbursed to the minister officiating the ceremony. While our ministers do not charge a fee for performing weddings, a minimum gratuity of \$250 is encouraged, with a more generous gratuity appropriate as you see fit. This gratuity is to be given directly to the officiating minister and not to Stonecreek Church.
5. Due to time constraints, our ministers will not be available for the wedding rehearsal. The minister will go over the ceremony with the couple. In the event that a wedding coordinator or director is used by the couple, it is the couple's responsibility to communicate with their coordinator the minister's order of worship.
6. Each minister's schedule and personal convictions about marriage will also impact your marriage preparation. These can be discussed during an initial meeting with the minister.

Our ministers will always view each couple as unique and significant to God. Be assured, we want to help each couple that comes to Stonecreek prepare for a life-long marriage. May God richly bless your relationship! If you would like Stonecreek's participation in your marriage, please call the Pastor's Office at 770-754-7900 to schedule an appointment with one of our ministers.