

# Wedding Guidelines

Peoria CRC

March 2004

Congratulations! We share in your happiness as you formulate your wedding plans and begin the beautiful adventure of marriage. We want to serve you and do our best to make your wedding day one that is God-glorifying and a joyous occasion.

## Our Interest

We care about the institution of marriage. We desire that marriages be in harmony with God's Word and be honoring to our Lord Jesus Christ.

We also care about you and the future success of your marriage. We want to help you in the growth of your relationship to God and to each other. Our goal is to assist you to prepare, not just for your wedding day, but for your married life together.

Therefore, we have expectations of weddings held in our church building or officiated by our pastor. These requirements are not intended to make it difficult to get married in the church or by the pastor. Rather, we recognize the sanctity of marriage and our responsibility to assist couples to prepare for this sacred covenant.

## Our Biblical Understanding

Marriage is a sacred covenant, in which one man and one woman enter into an exclusive, lifelong, committed relationship to each other. A Christian is called only to marry another Christian. A Christian wedding depends on God to be party to this covenant.

## Our Expectations

1. **Premarital Counseling:** A minimum of two sessions is required. You should consult with the officiating pastor about this.
2. **Faith Commitment:** Both of you must learn what is involved in being a Christian, in order to make a commitment to Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. And you need to be involved in a Christian church.
3. **Living Arrangements:** Live at separate residences and commit yourselves to celibacy prior to the wedding.

All exceptions to these requirements are to be submitted to the church elders for consideration.