

MARRIAGE POLICY

Peoria CRC

October 2020

Peoria CRC cares about the institution of marriage and desires that marriages be in harmony with God's Word and honoring to our Lord Jesus Christ. We also care about you and your marriage. Therefore, out of love to God and you, we have expectations for all weddings held at Peoria CRC or officiated by our Pastor.

Biblical Understanding and Definition:

Marriage is an institution created by God. A Christian marriage is a covenant relationship established by mutual vows made between a Christian biological man and a Christian biological woman united by God and depends on God being party to the covenant. Permanent unity in marriage is possible in Christ and is demanded of Christ's disciples who are married.

On this basis:

1. Applicants wishing to be married at Peoria CRC and/or married by our Pastor must subscribe to the general definition of marriage as stated in this policy.
2. Other teachings surrounding marriage and Christian living may affect the use of Peoria CRC property or clergy, including prior marriages, marrying outside of the faith, living celibate and separate prior to the wedding, etc. These issues will be explored during premarital counseling.
3. Applicants shall participate together in a minimum of two sessions with Peoria CRC clergy or approved clergy/counselors.
4. Any marriage performed on church premises shall be officiated by ordained clergy approved by Peoria CRC. Approved clergy shall affirm the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God which proclaim the good news of God's creation and redemption through Jesus Christ, acknowledge the authority of God's Word and submit to it in all matters of life and faith, and affirm the historic creeds of the Christian faith.
5. The Peoria CRC elders are assigned by the church to implement the procedures contained in the Marriage Policy. The elders may, at their sole discretion, decline approval for use of church facilities or clergy officiation for a ceremony when there are significant concerns that one or both of the applicants may not be qualified to enter into the sacred bond of marriage for doctrinal, moral, legal, or other reasons.