



HIGHLAND PARK CHURCH

Exalting Jesus by proclaiming His gospel and loving His people.

Marriage and Wedding Policy

Biblical Marriage

God has designed marriage and defined it in his word as the life-long covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and himself (Gen. 1:27; 2:24; Matt. 19:4-6). Biblical marriage uniquely reflects Christ's loving relationship with his church (Eph. 5:21-23).

Wedding Policy

Since God has created marriage to glorify him by reflecting the gospel, Highland Park Church requires the following for couples seeking to hold their wedding ceremony at the church:

1. HPC will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4-5). The facilities and property of HPC shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.
2. Since believers are only to marry "in the Lord," a couple must meet the spiritual qualifications for church membership. This means that both the man and woman demonstrate genuine conversion in both their doctrine and practice (Phil. 1:27; Titus 2:1-10). This is outlined further in the HPC "HPC Membership Process." The pastors of HPC will not preside over a wedding between a believer and one who is an unbeliever (2 Cor. 6:14).
3. The couple must have a legitimate connection to HPC. For example:
 - a. The man and/or woman is a member or former member of HPC.
 - b. Regular attender of HPC.
 - c. The man and/or woman's parents are members.
4. The Lord has planned sexual intimacy to only be within the marriage relationship (Heb. 13:4). HPC requires that couples seeking to be married abstain from sexual immorality and live separately until they are married.

5. The engaged couple must participate in premarital counseling with an HPC elder. The number of sessions will be worked out with the elder who is overseeing the counseling. Please allow a minimum of **4 months** for premarital counseling to be completed before the wedding ceremony.
6. Weddings will be preliminarily scheduled *after* the couple has met with a pastor and begun the process. Final approval will be given by the elder board. Wedding invitations should not be ordered until the wedding has received final approval.