



# Winona Friends Church

## *Marriage Policy*

*Marriage is a wonderful gift from God and weddings are a holy and sacred event as God joins a man and woman together for life. We are very thankful that you want WFC to be a part of your marriage. At Winona Friends Church we are committed to building marriages, not just performing weddings. Because we hold marriage in such high esteem we require several commitments before we will perform your Christian wedding.*

### **If you are getting married at Winona Friends Church, the following must take place:**

- 1.) Begin the process at the church at least 120 days before the wedding date (*special cases can be discussed with the pastor*).
- 2.) Contact the church secretary to establish the wedding date on the church calendar. The church secretary will determine if the date you have chosen for your wedding is available. The secretary will then tentatively pencil in that date on the church calendar.
- 3.) The secretary will inform you at this time of the fees involved.
- 4.) Read through the WFC Marriage Policy to understand the commitments required for marriage in our church:
  - a. Church Attendance: By choosing to get married in the church, you have asked the church to bless your marriage. As a result, we believe you should observe what goes on in our worship services as a couple. Both partners must attend (at least 2 times per month) a Sunday worship service for a minimum of 4 months prior to the wedding. (*If you are unable to attend the services of WFC, you may attend another Christian church with the pastor's approval.*)
  - b. Pre-Marital Counseling: You must complete the "Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts" program before the wedding date.
  - c. Divorce and Remarriage: We believe strongly in the permanence of marriage and grieve over the heartache that broken marriages bring to so many lives. In cases

of divorce, each situation will be dealt with individually and compassionately. Generally, WFC will not perform weddings for divorced persons except in the case of adultery (*Matt. 19:3-9*), abandonment (*1 Cor. 7:12-15*), or a divorce prior to conversion or repentance (*2 Cor. 5:17*). Because we believe in the redemptive power of God, however, these serve only as guidelines. We will gladly discuss each individual situation.

- d. Living Together: God designed sex to be enjoyed only within the boundaries of marriage (*Hebrews 13:4*). Surely it must grieve His heart to see people engaging in the act of marriage prior to their public vows. As a result, WFC requires that couples who have begun the pre-marital process at our church live in separate homes until after the wedding. (*Exceptions will be made in instances where the couple has children together.*)
- e. Non-Christians: Because the Bible commands that no Christian should be “unequally yoked” with a non-Christian (*2 Cor. 6:14-15*), WFC will not perform weddings for a believer to a non-believer. If *both* partners are non-believers and have met the criteria required by the church, they may still be married at WFC.

***We want you to experience all the blessing and joy that God desires for your marriage. We have set out these guidelines for marriage at WFC because we believe that all marriages belong to God and are therefore a sacred trust.***

***If you would like to continue the pre-marital process at WFC in accordance with the above commitments, please contact the pastor in order to set up an introductory appointment at (330) 222-1551.***

***May God bless you as you begin preparing for your marriage!***

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_