

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations on your engagement! This is such an incredibly exciting time in your life. As you embark on the adventure of marriage, we welcome this opportunity to share in your joy. Please know that our heart's desire is to help prepare you for a marriage that not only survives but thrives.

We look forward to connecting with you and doing all we can to enrich your relationship as a couple and with God. The following information has been assembled to help you take your next steps of preparing for your wedding and your life together. A major part of the process is your involvement in a premarital counseling program. It is designed to help you grow in ways that will help you experience a successful and happy marriage.

Please read the following information carefully. If after reading this material you would like South Park Church to be a part of your wedding, please contact the church office at 847-825-5507. We can place a tentative date on our calendar when you call so that it is reserved for you. That date is finalized after completing the steps described below (see page 5).

2	Wedding Requirements
3	The Premarital Counseling Process
4	Ceremony Guidelines
8	Facility Guidelines
9	Fees and Services
10	Wedding Information Form
12	Bride-to-be Questionnaire
13	Groom-to-be Questionnaire
14	Purity Covenant
15	Wedding Coordinator Information List
18	Sanctuary Layout

Wedding Requirements

When we help you prepare for marriage, we have much more than your wedding day in mind. We are committed to helping couples build a strong foundation for a lifetime together. That is why the following requirements are so important:

1. Generally, one of the individuals or a parent must be a regular attendee of South Park Church. We also welcome couples who are searching for a church to call “home” as they prepare for marriage. The facilities are not available for use by non-attenders due to the heavy use by our own congregation.
2. Both the bride and groom have begun a relationship with Jesus Christ and are open to biblical principles for guiding their marriage. One’s relationship with Jesus is the centerpiece of the counseling process and of a growing marriage. (See below for further explanation.)
3. Between five to six pre-marital counseling sessions must be attended with the officiating pastor or a marriage mentor. Topics covered include God’s plan for marriage, communication, finances, the sexual relationship, and other practical matters. We take time to explore how your family of origin, personality, and expectations affect your marriage. This happens through discussion, information inventories, and outside reading.

These requirements have been established by the elders and pastors at South Park Church. They reflect clear biblical teaching. By following them, you are inviting God’s blessing on your life and on your future marriage.

Why is it important that both of us have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

South Park Church will not marry unbelievers, or join an unbeliever to a believer in marriage (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). The Bible is clear about spiritual compatibility between marriage partners when it says, “Don’t team up with those who are unbelievers” (2 Corinthians 6:14).

In the same way, a husband and wife become a team in marriage. They need to pull together in the same direction. This is true in all dimensions of life, especially in one’s personal commitment to Jesus Christ. If either the husband or wife does not have a personal relationship with Jesus, conflict will be inevitable. But a powerful partnership is formed when couples share a commitment to Jesus.

The Premarital Counseling Process

At your first appointment, you will get acquainted with a member of our pastoral staff. There will be an opportunity to clarify the expectations listed above. And we will discuss the **Purity Covenant** which states: bride-to-be and groom-to-be are abstaining from physical intimacy and are not living together.

Following the interview, the couple may be asked to complete an Inventory and Personality Test. These tools help alert the premarital counselors to strength areas and growth areas in your relationship. This allows us to design the premarital counseling experience to meet the needs of each couple. The couple will also receive information about materials such as books and videos to be used during the counseling process.

Premarital Counseling Expectations

1. Come to each session prepared and ready to share openly.
 2. Complete the online PREPARE couple's inventory¹ (costs \$29.95).
¹ For more information, go to www.prepare-enrich.com and click "PREPARE/ENRICH" under the "Programs" heading.
 3. Read the following Scriptures. Record observations and questions.
 - I John 4:7-21
 - Ephesians 3:14-21
 - I Corinthians 13:1-13
 - Ephesians 5:21-33
 - Song of Songs (Song of Solomon)
 4. Purchase and read at least 3 of the following books
 - The Five Love Languages by Gary Smalley
 - His Needs, Her Needs by Willard Harley
 - The Total Money Makeover by Dave Ramsey
 - Love and Respect by Emerson Eggerichs
 - Sacred Marriage by Gary Thomas
 - For Him: Wild at Heart by John Eldredge
 - For Her: Captivating by John and Stasi Eldredge
 - For Her: Intimate Issues by Linda Dillow and Lorraine Pintus or Captivated by
 - Sheet Music by Kevin Lehman
 - Boundaries by Henry Cloud and John Townsend
 - Sex God: Exploring the Endless Connections between Sexuality and Spirituality by Rob Bell
 - Changes that Heal by Henry Cloud
 - The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work by John Gottman
 5. Schedule a meal with a "mentor couple" (10+ years) to ask questions about marriage.
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Ceremony Guidelines

A wedding date on the church calendar is tentative until the following items are finalized:

1. Completion of the following forms: The Wedding Information Form, Bride Questionnaire, Groom Questionnaire, Purity Covenant (These forms can be found at the end of this document.)
2. A pastor from South Park Church has committed to doing the wedding or an officiating pastor from outside South Park Church has been approved.
3. The deposit is paid.

A South Park Church wedding coordinator must be used at all weddings. This person will be of great assistance in the entire process of planning and overseeing the details of the ceremony. The couple will be contacted by the coordinator after the wedding date is finalized on the church calendar.

The Wedding Coordinator will be available at your rehearsal and wedding ceremony to oversee a variety of details. She will ensure that you have the needed equipment (candelabras, kneeling bench, etc.). Although she is not a wedding planner, she will meet with you in advance to answer questions and help you work through the logistics of the ceremony. The Wedding Coordinator will inform you of when the Wedding Coordinator Information List must be completed.

Miscellaneous Guidelines:

- If an officiating pastor from outside South Park Church conducts the ceremony, that pastor must be present at the rehearsal.
- Music used in the wedding ceremony must be approved by the officiating pastor.
- No rice, birdseed, or confetti may be thrown. Rose petals or bubbles may be used.
- Saturday weddings cannot be scheduled later than 3:00 p.m., due to the amount of time required to prepare the sanctuary for Sunday services.

The Wedding Ceremony

Note: Do not feel obligated to include all of the following elements in your ceremony. They have been included here simply to give you an idea of many of the potential wedding components.

The music begins playing (20-30 minutes before the wedding begins)
The Ushers begin seating
The Ushers light Candelabras (10 minutes before the wedding begins)

The official beginning of the Ceremony:
The Ushers seat the following family members in the following order:

- Groom's grandparents
- Bride's grandparents
- Groom's parents
- Bride's mother

Mothers light the "Birth" candles on either side of the unity candle.
(They get candles laying on unity candle table, walk over to candelabras or use lighter to light their candles, then light birth candles next to unity candle. Blow out original candle and leave on the table)

Men enter from the side door in following order

- Pastor, Groom,
- Best Man
- Groomsman #1
- Groomsman #2 etc

Processional music begins

Bride's party enters in the following order:

- Brides' maid #1
- Bride's maid #2 etc
- Maid of Honor

Ushers role down the aisle runner

- Ring Bearer
- Flower Girl (s)

Music Stops

Mother of the bride (optional: and Mother of Groom) stands and turns around.

- Audience stands and turns around.

- Bride's entry music begins

Bride enters being escorted by father – (Bride on father's left arm)

- Bride and Father continue up to the edge of alter/stage

Music Stops

Pastor welcomes guests

Pastor invites guests to be seated

Pastor prays prayer to dedicate ceremony to God

Pastor give sdefinition of Christian marriage

Giving of Bride:

- Pastor asks" Who then gives _____ to be married to _____."

- Father responds "Her mother and I"

- Father hugs and kisses daughter

- Father shakes hand or hugs groom

- Father joins the hands of couple

- Father walks around the dress and sits down

Pastor signals that the couple should ascend the stairs
Song (Optional)
Scripture Reading
Pastor gives Message
Song (Optional)
Vow Ceremony:
 Statement of Intent (“I do’s”)
 Exchange of rings
 Vows (“Repeat after me’s”)
Song during song the following occur
 Bride and Groom give flower and hug parents
 Lightings of the “Unity” candle
 Communion (Bride and Groom)
Prayer of dedication (The prayer dedicates the united couple to God)
Pronouncement
Kiss
Presentation
Recessional (Reverse Order)
Dismiss guests
Announcements

Sample Ceremony Music Program

<u>Played When?</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Name of Song</u>	<u>Time</u>
<i>Prelude</i>			
	#1	I Can Only Imagine	4:11
Start to Play	#2	This is The Air I Breathe	6:35
@10:20	#3	Have a Little Faith in Me	3:57
(Loop if necessary)	#4	God of Wonders	5:09
Total: 34 min	#5	Only Hope	3:55
	#6	The Lord is Gracious and Compasionate	4:46
	#7	Word of God Speak	3:07
	#8	Still in Love with You	3:57
Mother Lighting	#9	Trumpet Voluntary	3:21
the candles:			
Bridal Party Walk	#10	Cannon in D	5:43
Down: Processional (Loop as necessary)			
Bride Walks Down	#11	Pachelbel's Cannon in D	8:02
Introduction and Opening Prayer			
Giving of the Bride			
Song 1	#12	Love of My Life	Play All
Reading--	#13	Largo	6:10
Wedding Message			
Reading--	#13	Largo	6:10
Song 2	#14	I Will Be Here	4:27
(Play Entire Song~No Action~Everyone quietly listening)			
Vows and Exchange of Rings			
Distribution of Roses and Lighting of Unity Candle			
Song 3	#15	You Raise Me Up	4:52
(Play entire song)			
Pronouncement of Marriage			
<i>Recessional</i>			
When Bride and	#16	It's a Beautiful Day	
Groom Walk down the aisle			
And bridal party	#16	It's a Beautiful Day	
Dismiss all			

Popular Bible Verses

Genesis 1:26-31	Romans 12:9-13
Genesis 2:18-24	1 Corinthians 13:4-7
Song of Solomon 8:6-7	Colossians 3:12-17
Matthew 5:13-16	Ephesians 5:21-33
John 2:1	Ecclesiastes 4:9-12
John 15:11-17	1 John 4:7-12

Facility Guidelines

1. No smoking or serving of alcoholic beverages will be permitted in the church.
2. No decorations may be taped to furniture or walls.
3. Masking tape may be used to tape items to windows and cabinets. (no scotch tape)
4. No tables, cabinets, etc. are to be placed in front of exits.
5. Lighted candles are not permitted, (except in the altar area or in hurricanes or votive candles) as per city fire code.
6. Room capacity must be adhered to.
7. Use of Kitchen facilities: Arrangements for access to the building will be made through the office. Each group using the kitchen is responsible for leaving the kitchen in a clean, orderly fashion. The Golden Rule would apply here.
8. Only the kitchen and kitchenette are wired for coffee pots or any other electrical appliances. Please do not plug appliances into any other outlets than those wired for this use.
9. The building closes at 11 p.m. on weekdays and 10 p.m. on Sundays.
10. Groups of up to 125 people should use Fellowship Hall. Groups over this number must use the Multi-Purpose Room. When the Multi-Purpose Room is used you are responsible for moving and returning tables to the proper place.
11. Arrangements for getting into the building or kitchen must be made in advance through the office during regular office hours. The building is locked after 5 p.m. on weekdays and after 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Fees & Services

Package #1: Wedding Only

Sanctuary/Dressing Room	no charge
Sound system	\$100
Custodian	\$60
Wedding Coordinator	\$100
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	\$260

Additional Optional Add-on Costs:

Projection (Computer & DVD/VHS player)	\$50	(Optional)
Candelabras & Candles	\$35	(Optional)

Package #2: Wedding and Reception or Rehearsal Dinner in Fellowship Hall with use of Kitchenette

Building usage	\$75
Sound system (ceremony/reception)	\$150
Custodian (ceremony/reception)	\$100
Wedding Coordinator	\$250
	<hr/>
	\$575

Additional Optional Add-on Costs:

Projection (Computer & DVD/VHS player)	\$50	(Optional)
Candelabras & Candles	\$35	(Optional)

Package #3: Wedding and Reception or rehearsal dinner in Multi-Purpose Room and use of Kitchen

Building usage	\$100
Sound system (ceremony/reception)	\$150
Custodian (ceremony/reception)	\$125
Wedding Coordinator	\$250
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	\$625

Additional Optional Add-on Costs:

Projection (Computer & DVD/VHS player)	\$50	(Optional)
Candelabras & Candles	\$35	(Optional)

Special Notes

- If you choose to use the candelabras, you must use the candles supplied by the church. They are a special no-drip candle.
- The fees listed above do not include any honorarium for musicians or the pastor. These are to be handled separately at your discretion.

Wedding Information Form

Bride's Information:

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Email address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Groom's Information:

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Email address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work phone _____

Bride's Parents' names _____

Bride's Parents' address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work phone _____

Groom's Parents' names _____

Groom's Parents' address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work phone _____

Wedding Information:

Location of wedding (room) _____

Wedding date _____ Time _____

Rehearsal date _____ Time _____

Reception Information:

Reception date _____ Time _____

Room needed _____ Kitchen needed? Yes / No

Rehearsal dinner (if applicable)

Room needed _____ Kitchen needed? Yes / No

Officiating Pastor _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Work phone _____

Bride and Groom's new address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Bride Questionnaire

To help us get to know you, there are some things we would like to ask:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Email _____ Age: _____

Describe your relationship with God:

Are you a member of South Park Church? Yes / No

How long have you been attending South Park Church? _____

Are you willing to study God's design for marriage and meet with a pastor or mentor for premarital counseling? Yes / No

How long have you know your fiancé? _____

How long has the engagement period been? _____

Have you been married before? Yes / No

Date of divorce _____ or Date of death _____

If previously married, please give details:

Are children involved? Yes / No How many _____ Ages _____

With whom do they live?

Groom Questionnaire

To help us get to know you, there are some things we would like to ask:

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Email _____ Age: _____

Describe your relationship with God:

Are you a member of South Park Church? Yes / No

How long have you been attending South Park Church? _____

Are you willing to study God's design for marriage and meet with a pastor or mentor for premarital counseling? Yes / No

How long have you know your fiancé? _____

How long has the engagement period been? _____

Have you been married before? Yes / No

Date of divorce _____ or Date of death _____

If previously married, please give details:

Are children involved? Yes / No How many _____ Ages _____

With whom do they live?

The Purity Covenant

We are committed to God's ways in preparing for our marriage. We agree to abstain from sexual intimacy until we share our marriage vows together. We believe it is God's will for our life and marriage to be dedicated to pure and holy living.

I Thessalonians 4:3-8

"It is God's will that you be sanctified; that you should avoid sexual immorality; that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable...

For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you His Holy Spirit."

We also understand that God forgives and redeems our past. He looks at us as broken people whom He can make new. Because of His grace, we can start over again. As we ask God to forgive us through Jesus, He will see us as a completely new couple.

I John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

We will trust God and honor Him by upholding His guidelines for sexuality. We will reserve sexual intimacy for our future marriage. We believe that with God's power, we will be able to keep this covenant and be greatly blessed by our obedience to Him.

Signatures:

Groom: _____ Date: _____

Bride: _____ Date: _____

Counselor: _____ Date: _____

Wedding Coordinator Information List

Bride _____ Phone _____

Groom _____ Phone _____

Pastor _____ Phone _____

Wedding Date: _____ Time _____

Rehearsal Date: _____ Time _____

Number of Guests: _____

Musicians _____ Phone _____

Organist _____ Phone _____

Pianist _____ Phone _____

Vocalists _____ Phone _____

_____ Phone _____

_____ Phone _____

Songs:

Sound System _____ Phone _____

Photographer _____ Phone _____

Pictures When? _____

Video Operator _____ Phone _____

Florist _____ Phone _____

Equipment Needed:

Babysitter _____ Phone _____

Church Items Needed:

- _____ Candelabras (church must supply candles)
- _____ Candles for candelabras(\$35 fee)
- _____ Unity Candle Holder (Bride/Groom provide Unity Candle and Tapers)
- _____ Podium
- _____ Gift Table
- _____ Kneeling Bench

Guest Book Attendant: _____

Gift Table Attendant: _____

Gifts to Car: _____

Clean Up: _____

Wedding Party

Bride: _____

Groom: _____

Officiating Pastor: _____

Maid/Matron of Honor: _____

Best Man: _____

Bridesmaids: Groomsmen:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Parents of the Bride: _____

Parents of the Groom: _____

Grandparents of the Bride: _____

Grandparents of the Groom: _____

Candle lighters: _____

Family or Special Seating:

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT IF YOU ARE PLANNING YOUR WEDDING AT A HOLIDAY
TIME SUCH AS CHRISTMAS OR EASTER, THE SANCTUARY MAY BE DECORATED WITH
HOLIDAY-APPROPRIATE DECORATIONS THAT ARE NOT REMOVABLE.
PLEASE CHECK WITH THE WEDDING COORDINATOR

Wedding of _____

Date _____ Time _____

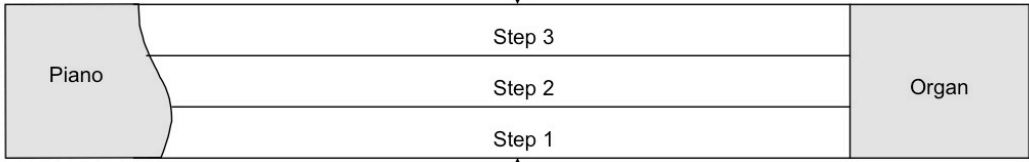
Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Choir Loft

Modesty Rails
Up Down

7 Feet

Banners
Up Down



8 Feet



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							

84 Feet

- NEED:**
- _____ Candelabras(2)
 - _____ Unity Candle Holder
 - _____ Kneeling Bench
 - _____ Communion Table
 - _____ Podium (for Guestbook)
 - _____ Music Stands
 - _____ Microphone
 - _____ Risers
 - _____ Extension cords
 - _____ Gift Table (in overpass)