

YOU AND YOUR WEDDING
Crosswinds Wesleyan Church

Congratulations on your engagement! This is such an exciting time for you, and we are here to serve you in the very best way we can. We celebrate Christian marriage, and want to help you plan and enjoy a joyous, God-honoring wedding day. Even more than that, we want to help you launch a Christ-centered, life-long marriage relationship.

We believe that God established the sanctity of marriage and intends the bond between husband and wife to last a lifetime. In following those beliefs, Crosswinds has the responsibility to help every couple who marries here achieve a permanent marriage bond and establish a strong Christian home. The following guidelines are established with that goal in mind:

Church attendance. A church wedding is a service of worship to God. A marriage ceremony can be legally performed just about anywhere, but by desiring your wedding to be held in a church you are saying that it is more than just a legal act. It is a covenant made before God, and one that requires His special blessing. Further, the wedding ceremony held in the church signifies that church's blessing and sanction of the wedding. For those two reasons, Crosswinds requires couples who wish to be married here to be in regular attendance at this church's services of worship for at least six months prior to the wedding day. We hope this attendance will be the beginning of a continuing and deepening relationship with God and our church family. Not only do we want to "do your wedding," we want to provide you with a network of support that will last throughout your married lives.

Pre-marital counseling. All couples married here at Crosswinds are required to participate in pre-marital counseling. The purpose of this counseling is to help you work through many of the important issues that arise in marriage, e.g. communication, finances, intimacy, and conflict resolution. We have developed what we believe is a unique and highly effective approach to pre-marital counseling. The counseling, (3) 2-hour sessions, are done with Dr. Beverly J. Miller, Licensed Mental Health Counselor of Encouragement Christian Counseling (585-396-0590). Beverly is a professional certified counselor and an active member of Crosswinds Church. The highly-regarded pre-marital assessment tool called "PREPARE" will be a part of this counseling. The fee for pre-marital counseling (all seven sessions and PREPARE) is \$250. This is paid directly to Encouragement; some financial assistance is available for couples who are unable to pay all of this fee. If for some reason you wish to do your pre-marital counseling with a different Christian counselor (if, for example, you already have a relationship with another counselor or live at some distance from Canandaigua), please make the wedding hostess aware of that desire.

The importance of premarital counseling cannot be overstated. You will be acquiring knowledge and skills to help you the rest of your lives. Therefore, please assign your counseling and any outside work assigned by the counselor a high priority in your schedule. Failure to attend sessions and/or complete required assignments will be interpreted as a lack of seriousness about your commitment to marriage, and may lead us to evaluate whether or not the wedding should proceed as planned.

When premarital counseling is completed, please contact the wedding hostess and she will schedule an appointment with you to plan the wedding ceremony.

Difficult issues. If any of the following is a past or ongoing issue in your lives or relationship, it must be resolved to the satisfaction of the counselor and the pastor before the wedding can take place: emotional instability, substance abuse, spousal abuse, child abuse, financial mismanagement, immaturity, spiritual incompatibility, and any other matter which might be considered a significant barrier to a lasting marriage. Since we are committed to getting you started into a lifelong and successful marriage, we believe it is our responsibility to disapprove or delay a wedding if these types of issues are unresolved. In that event, the originally scheduled wedding can no longer take place at Crosswinds and the reserved date will be opened for others.

Sexual activity. We hold to the biblical standard that sexual activity is to be reserved for the marriage relationship. God has not established this standard because He wants to deprive us of anything, but rather because He wants only the best for us. Sex was his idea, and He knows that it is best enjoyed within the covenant of marriage. Therefore, couples who are living together and/or are sexually active will be asked to maintain celibacy until they are married.

Divorce and remarriage. We realize that the issue of divorce and remarriage is highly complex. The spiritual condition of those involved, the time of the divorce, the circumstances, and other considerations all affect a final decision about whether or not to proceed with a new marriage. Therefore, situations involving divorce will be dealt with on an individual basis by the pastor and counselor. Those seeking remarriage after a divorce should be ready to answer the following questions when meeting with the pastor or counselor: what caused the separation and divorce from your former spouse? What efforts were made toward reconciliation? If children are involved, what are their feelings about this new relationship? What counseling and mentoring has occurred in your life since your divorce? If the pastor is uncertain about whether or not to proceed with the marriage, (s)he reserves the right to confer with the church board. Confidentiality issues will be explained in an informed consent form which must be signed prior to counseling.

To Get Started: We have a wedding hostess who will assist you in all aspects of your wedding that relate to Crosswinds. Her role is to serve you, and she will assist you in coordinating church logistics, planning your ceremony, answering your questions, and will also be present at the rehearsal and ceremony for any last minute details or concerns.

To get started, please complete the attached wedding information sheet and mail/give it to the wedding hostess (her contact information is at the end of this policy). She will then schedule a brief meeting with you in order to discuss possible dates and answer any questions you may have. Wedding dates are subject to the availability of the pastors and the building, and should generally be scheduled at least six months prior to the anticipated wedding date.

Additional notes:

- *Pastors.* There are several Crosswinds pastors who are able to officiate at weddings. You may request which pastor you prefer and we will honor as many of those

requests as possible. In the event that the pastor you prefer is unavailable or unable to do your wedding, another member of the pastoral staff will be available to serve you.

- *Location options.* We have two rooms in which weddings can be held: the chapel seats up to 175, and the ministry center can accommodate up to 800 guests.
- *Rehearsal.* A rehearsal date should also be set. We recommend that these be held in the late afternoon (4:00 or 5:00 p.m.) the day before the wedding. Approximately one hour should be allowed for the rehearsal. Please make sure to notify all wedding participants of the rehearsal time.
- *Wedding times.* Because we have a Saturday evening worship service that the facilities and pastors must be ready for, we ask that Saturday weddings be held as early in the day as possible. Saturday weddings will be scheduled no later than 12:00 noon, and all activities (including pictures) must be completed by 2:00 p.m.
- *License.* New York State law requires that a marriage license be obtained. You can apply for one at any town or city clerk in the state. There is a 24 hour waiting period before the wedding can be performed, so it is recommended that you obtain the license at least one week before the ceremony. Please bring the license to the rehearsal.
- *Music.* The wedding coordinator can direct you to musicians and soloists from within the Crosswinds Church family. These musicians and soloists are professionals and have individual fees. They will work directly with you to determine the specific musical needs for your ceremony. If you wish to use musicians from outside Crosswinds Church, please discuss this with the wedding hostess. All musicians and soloists need to be present for both the wedding rehearsal and the ceremony. Due to the sacred nature of a church wedding, we prefer that only religious or classical music be used in the ceremony. In the event that you wish to use secular music in your ceremony, you must discuss that with the wedding hostess.
- *Photographers.* Photographers are requested to refrain from taking flash pictures during the wedding ceremony. These are a distraction to the couple, the pastor, and to attenders, and also detract from the sacred nature of the wedding. Non-flash pictures and videos may be taken from an inconspicuous place in the sanctuary. Ceremony poses can be reenacted for flash photography before or after the ceremony.
- *Decorations.* The decorating of the facility is solely the responsibility of the bride and groom. Arrangements for floral decorations should be made through the florist of your choice. All decorations should be attached in a way that facilitates easy removal and leaves no permanent marks. Your florist should contact the wedding hostess to make sure the church will be available at the hour desired for setting up the decorations.
- *Sound booth.* Any wedding with more than approximately 20-25 guests will require use of the church sound system. One of Crosswinds' sound technicians will be required to operate this system.
- *Printed programs.* It is recommended that you have a printed program for your guests. Please submit a rough draft to the wedding hostess at least two weeks prior to the ceremony. Printing is the responsibility of the bride and groom.

- *Facilities guidelines.* Smoking and alcohol use are strictly prohibited in church facilities. We assume that all church facilities will be treated with respect and care. In the interest of safety, rice may not be thrown. It is preferred that birdseed or something similar be used. All such material must be used outside the church building and pre-approved by the wedding hostess.
- *Custodian.* In order to ensure that the church building is cleaned before and after your wedding, we will hire someone to come in and take care of that for you. There will be a modest fee for this service.
- *Church receptions.* Because of the need to get the building clean and ready for the weekend services, the church generally does not host wedding receptions. If you would like to request this, please speak with the wedding hostess.
- *The service of marriage.* The church wedding service is an act of worship. This fact should affect your wedding in a couple of ways. First, it means that in planning your wedding ceremony, worship and thanksgiving to God should be primary. Second, all who attend should come with an attitude of reverence and respect. A wedding is a joyful event, but it is not a party. Your attendants, family, and all guests must remember that it is first and foremost a service of worship.

Expenses: We make every effort to assist in keeping wedding costs at a minimum. However, there are some expenses which the bride and groom will be expected to cover:

- Wedding Hostess: \$100
- Sound and lights technician: \$50
- Custodial fee: \$50

To cover these costs, a check for \$200 payable to the church is necessary to reserve the wedding date. There is no charge for the services of a Crosswinds pastor; however, some couples do choose to give a monetary gift to the pastor.

While these costs might add up to what seems like a significant amount of money, couples are encouraged to remember that in comparison to what is often spent on other aspects of the wedding (flowers, clothing, photographer, reception, honeymoon, etc.), these costs are really very modest. In the event of extreme financial hardship, some financial assistance may be available. Please discuss this with the wedding hostess.

Weddings with another pastor. It is the general policy of Crosswinds that one of our pastors shall officiate at ceremonies that are conducted in our building. However, exceptions to this policy can be made with the approval of the senior pastor. Under no circumstances will such a wedding be approved if the desired pastor is not a professing Christian. The \$200 fee described above still applies in order to cover the church's costs.

Civil ceremonies. In certain situations, the pastor might agree to perform a civil ceremony. This ceremony will be held in the pastor's office, a home, or some other site.

Questions? Please contact our wedding hostess. We hope to be able to serve you!
 Joanne Neary, Crosswinds Wesleyan Church, 3360 Middle Cheshire Road,
 Canandaigua, NY 14424. 585-469-9403 <mailto:jrose158@hotmail.com>
www.crosswindsonline.org

WEDDING INFORMATION SHEET

This form is intended to help us gather some basic information about you and your relationship. Please return this completed form to the wedding hostess; upon receipt of this form, she will set up an initial meeting with you. The space provided here for answers is very limited, so please feel free to attach additional sheets.

Bride's name _____

Address _____

Work phone _____ Home Phone: _____

Groom's name _____

Address _____

Work phone _____ Home Phone: _____

Desired date and time of wedding: _____

Desired location: ___ Chapel ___ Ministry Center ___ Other:

Desired pastor (please indicate 1st and 2nd choice)

___ Eric Weaver ___ Melody Burri

___ Jon Stephens ___ Other:

Approximate number of guests: _____

1. Please describe your courtship, i.e. how you met, how long you've known each other, how long you've been dating, engaged, etc.

2. Please describe previous marriages or children involved, if any.

3. Describe your relationship with Jesus Christ or what you know about Him.

Bride:

Groom:

4. What convinced you that you love this person? Please describe the love that you have.

Bride:

Groom:

5. Please list ten reasons why you'd like to marry the other person.

Bride's reasons:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)

9)

10)

Groom's reasons:

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)

9)

10)

6. Is there anything about yourself or your past that you think might seriously affect your marriage?

7. What would you like to see accomplished during premarital counseling? Are there specific questions you'd like answered or issues you'd like addressed?

By signing and submitting this form, we acknowledge that we have read the Crosswinds Church wedding policy completely and will abide by all of its expectations and requirements.

Bride's signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Groom's signature: _____ *Date:* _____

Wedding Ceremony Worksheet

This worksheet is intended to help you do some preliminary thinking about your wedding ceremony. The wedding hostess will go over this in detail with you a few weeks before your wedding. It is suggestive only, and we invite you to be creative in the planning of your wedding.

Bride: _____ **Groom:** _____

Participants

Parents of bride:

Parents of groom:

Maid/Matron of honor:

Bridesmaids:

Flower girl:

Best man:

Groomsmen:

Ushers:

Ring bearer:

Scripture readers:

Musicians:

Others:

Suggested order of worship

Prelude/lighting of candles

Seating of mothers

Entrance of men

Processional – Musical selection

Bridal march – musical selection

Welcome “Dearly beloved...”

Opening prayer

Giving away of bride (Who gives this woman...?)

Declaration of intent (Will you have this man...? I will.)

Solo

Scripture readings

Homily (optional)

Exchange of vows (“For better, for worse...”)

Exchange of rings

Unity candle with musical selection

Pastoral prayer

Pronouncement of marriage

Kiss presentation of couple, and recessional

ENCOURAGEMENT Christian Counseling & Coaching

Beverly J. Miller, Licensed Mental Health Counselor

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Informed Consent for Premarital Counseling

Encouragement Christian Counseling & Coaching is a professional organization. Counseling and coaching is done by Dr. Beverly J. Miller, who is a National Certified Counselor, Certified Diplomatic in Psychotherapy, and a Certified Cognitive-Behavioral Therapist. Dr. Miller earned a master's degree in counseling from Liberty University, which is a regionally accredited institution, and a doctorate in Christian counseling from Andersonville Baptist Seminary She began work at a professional level in March of 1992.

Under normal circumstances, everything you discuss with your therapist will be held in strict confidence and in accordance with HIPAA standards. A copy of the therapist's HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices is available to you on request and is posted in the office waiting room. You should be aware that there are some situations in which your therapist may be required by law to report information to the proper authorities without your permission or knowledge. These situations include, by may not be limited to a client's indications of bodily harm to others, involvement in a felony, suicidal intentions, and a reasonable evidence of child or elder abuse or neglect Your therapist may also be required by law to disclose information in response to a subpoena by a court of law. In this special arrangement with Crosswinds Wesleyan Church, by signing this consent you are giving the therapist, pastor(s), and wedding coordinator permission to discuss with each other issues which they consider to be significant barriers to a lasting marriage. If they remain uncertain whether or not to proceed with recommending the marriage, they reserve the right to confer with the church board.

Please sign this form *after* you have read it carefully and understand its contents,

Client Signature: Date:

Client Signature: Date:

Pastor Signature: Date:

Wedding Hostess: Date:

Therapist Signature: Date: