

# WEDDINGS

Marriage is a holy commitment that has been established by God as a permanent union between a man and a woman sharing a common love. Marriage is for a lifetime and is an earthly example of the relationship that God desires to have with His people. We have established the following criteria for being married with Life Church Buffalo involvement. Special circumstances may be considered.

## WEDDING REQUIREMENTS

### Each couple:

1. **Must be involved in Life Church Buffalo as their home church.**

To ensure that our facilities, staff, and pastors are available for events that promote the mission of the church, we must limit our wedding involvement to those who consider Life Church Buffalo to be their home church.

2. **Must individually confess a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.**

Life Church Buffalo will not unite a believer to an unbeliever in marriage. God's word is clear about spiritual compatibility (see 2 Corinthians 6:14-15).

3. **Is to complete Life Church Buffalo approved premarital counseling before the wedding date.**

It is our desire to help you begin your marriage with a solid foundation that will lead to a Christ-centered marriage.

4. **Is strongly encouraged to abstain from living together and must *not* be physically intimate before the wedding.**

Since sex is a gift from God, His directions alone must be followed. The Bible gives clear instructions for sex within the parameters of the marriage relations (see 1 Corinthians 6:18; Ephesians 5:3, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8, and 1 Timothy 5:1-2) and clear warnings and consequences when His guidelines are ignored. If you are currently physically intimate, we ask that you covenant with God to abstain from any sexual relationship until your wedding. If you are currently living together, we ask that you both strongly consider moving apart, since the sexual temptation is very strong while living together. Making a commitment like this demonstrates your desire to pursue God's best for your years together as a married couple.

We look forward to serving you!

*The Life Church Buffalo Pastoral Team*



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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Are we required to have some type of premarital counseling?

Yes. We require all couples to undergo premarital counseling before one of our pastors will marry them.

### What does premarital counseling entail?

Life Church Buffalo has a group of marriage mentors (pastors or other trained couples with a Christ-centered marriage) who will guide you through a series of premarital counseling sessions in a small group setting with other couples. The pre-marital counseling group will take approximately 8 sessions. You are responsible for purchasing your own books which are about \$20 per couple.

This is held in a small group format with other couples, 2-3 times per year (advertised at the Groups Launch events) so please plan ahead.

### What is talked about at the premarital counseling sessions?

The primary resource used is "Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts" (a.k.a. "SYMBIS") by Drs. Les & Leslie Perrott. You will review many subjects throughout the study including marital roles and responsibilities, skills for communicating and resolving conflicts, God-honoring management of finances, sexual relationships, and family of origin. All of these sessions are strictly confidential.

### What are the fees for having a wedding or vow renewal ceremony at Life Church Buffalo?

ON-SITE: \$625

\$150 will be applied for the hosting pastor. \$475 will be applied for building use and to compensate others involved for their time (including but not limited to tech & janitorial persons).

OFF-SITE: \$150

If the service is off-site, only the \$150 hosting pastor fee is applied. If the venue is further than 25 miles from Life Church Buffalo, there will be an additional fee to be determined based on time & mileage.

### Can we have vocalists and musicians at our wedding?

Yes, however, you must make your own arrangements and use of Life Church Buffalo's equipment must be approved.

### If we don't have live music, can we use pre-recorded digital music?

Yes. The song list must be submitted 2 weeks in advance.



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## Can we video our wedding?

Photographers and videographers are welcome, but you must make your own arrangements.

## Can we show a video/slide show at our wedding?

Yes, all media must be submitted 2 weeks in advance.

## Will Life Church Buffalo make the video/slideshow for us?

No, you must make your own arrangement for its production. We reserve the right to reject videos due to incompatibility, poor quality, or inappropriate content.

## Can non-attenders use Life Church Buffalo facilities?

No. To have a wedding at Life Church Buffalo or have a pastor officiate, you must call Life Church Buffalo your home church and have a history of involvement.

## Can we schedule our wedding on the same day as a weekend service?

No. Please understand that our weekend experiences have priority here at Life Church Buffalo. There will be no wedding ceremonies on campus on Sundays. Your wedding start and end time will be crucial in whether your wedding will be able to be held here. We must have the space returned to original set up no later than 4 pm on Saturdays. No exceptions will be made.

## Can outside pastors marry someone at Life Church Buffalo?

Typically, we do not allow outside pastors to officiate wedding at Life Church Buffalo. However, some situations will be taken into consideration.

## How far out can weddings be scheduled?

You can reserve Life Church Buffalo up to one year in advance.

## What is the seating capacity of Life Church Buffalo's auditorium?

Our auditorium can host 500 people.

## When can weddings be held?

All times are subject to facility availability with regards to our ministries.

## Can we have our reception at Life Church Buffalo?

No, we do not to allow receptions here at Life Church Buffalo.



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## Are there any restrictions for weddings?

1. Electronic candles are welcome. We kindly request no lit candles are used in decoration aside from a unity candle lit in the ceremony.
2. Decorations are the couple's responsibility and may be done before or after the rehearsal or before the wedding. It is the couple's responsibility to check the availability before placing decorations. No decorations may be attached to the walls. No nails, staples, tape, or glue may be used on the walls.
3. The throwing of rice, birdseed, feathers, or confetti is not permitted inside or outside of the church. Rose petals and bubbles are permitted outside only. Artificial rose petals are permitted but, in the aisle, only.
4. No food or drink is allowed in the auditorium. The only exception to this is communion.
5. Per NY State, no smoking or vaping is allowed in the building.
6. No alcohol, controlled substances, or illicit drugs are permitted on the church property.
7. Christian conduct is expected at all times.

*We will temporarily reserve the auditorium for your wedding and will hold it for two weeks, until you have met with a pastor or representative from Life Church Buffalo. We look forward to serving you!*

REVISED 2/2/23

