



## WEDDING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

We are excited that you are interested in exchanging your wedding vows at Coram Deo Bible Church! It is our desire that your wedding at Coram Deo would glorify God and be a testimony of God's faithfulness to you as a couple.

Coram Deo believes marriage is a monogamous, heterosexual union instituted and ordained by God ([Genesis 2:18-25](#); [Ephesians 5:22-33](#)). As such, it is to be an exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman for the purpose of a lifetime of mutual commitment and companionship. Applicants desiring to participate in the Coram Deo premarital class, have a ceremony performed by a Pastor or Director employed by Coram Deo, and/or use the facilities of the church shall affirm their agreement with the Position on Marriage and Human Sexuality of Coram Deo Bible Church (<https://coramdeobible.church/specific-issues/>) and shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent therewith.

The following are the guidelines that Coram Deo Pastors and Directors abide by:

### **PARTICIPANTS**

We, as a leadership at Coram Deo, are agreed that scripture prevents a Pastor/Director from marrying a believer to a non-believer (*2 Corinthians 6:14-16*).

### **PARENTAL BLESSING**

In cases of first-time marriages, a couple should seek to obtain the blessing of their parents. The age of the persons involved may affect this decision.

### **UNITY OF PASTORS**

If any Pastor or Director of Coram Deo has refused to perform the ceremony, then all Pastors and Directors will be unavailable to do so until the issue causing the decision is resolved.

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### **WEDDING COORDINATOR**

We are here to facilitate your wedding to the best of our ability. If you are using Coram Deo as the facility for your wedding ceremony and do not have an outside Day-of-Wedding Coordinator, you will have a Coram Deo Wedding Coordinator assigned to you. Your Wedding Coordinator will be able to answer all of your questions regarding wedding procedures and the facility. Coram Deo Pastors/Directors officiating off-site wedding ceremonies may also require a Wedding Coordinator. In either case, you will be notified when your application is approved.

### **WEDDING OFFICIANT**

Most weddings at Coram Deo are officiated by a Pastor/Director from Coram Deo Bible Church. A list of Pastors/Directors is included with the Marriage and Wedding Application. Guest Pastors may participate in or officiate your wedding if approved ahead of time through the church office. They are required to complete a Guest Wedding Officiant Application and provide Coram Deo with a statement of faith in order to be approved for participation at your wedding ceremony. Before you turn in your Marriage and Wedding Application, please contact Christina Zahniser at the Coram Deo offices. You will be sent the Guest Wedding Officiant Application document, to be completed by the guest pastor, and this application should be included with your Marriage and Wedding Application.

### **PREMARITAL CLASS**

If a Coram Deo Pastor/Director is officiating your wedding and/or you are using the Coram Deo facility, you must complete our Premarital Class. To register for the Premarital Class, please visit [coramdeobible.church/care](https://coramdeobible.church/care) or contact Christina Zahniser at [ChristinaZ@cdbible.org](mailto:ChristinaZ@cdbible.org) or (563) 359-5333.

### **IF YOU HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY MARRIED**

Although this is a sensitive and sometimes controversial issue, God's Word gives clear direction and teaching on divorce and remarriage. We believe the Bible teaches that there are certain circumstances that may occur in previous marriages that make remarriage possible and pleasing to God. At the same time, there are situations that would not allow us to remarry someone. If you have been married before, please discuss your situation with your requested officiating Pastor during your Pre-Marriage Meeting. This must be completed before your date will be confirmed.

### **IF YOU ARE LIVING TOGETHER**

We believe that God's desire is that a man and woman would not live together until after their commitment to one another has been pledged in marriage before God and friends. Because we believe God's ways are always right and best for us, we ask that couples would honor this if they are to be married at Coram Deo and/or having a Coram Deo Pastor officiate. If you are living together, please discuss your situation with your requested officiating Pastor during your Pre-Marriage Meeting. This must be completed before your date will be confirmed.

## **THE BASICS OF SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING AT CORAM DEO**

### **WEDDING FEES**

A detailed list of wedding fees is included on the Marriage and Wedding Application. Please talk to your Wedding Coordinator or Christina Zahniser for additional information.

### **MUSICIANS**

An additional fee is required (as shown on the Marriage and Wedding Application) for use of a Coram Deo Worship Leader. You will need to coordinate fee, song choice, and instrument usage with your wedding musician(s). If you desire to bring in a guest musician, please discuss details of their instrument and equipment needs with your Wedding Coordinator to confirm we can accommodate their equipment.

### **SECURE YOUR DATE**

After your application is *approved*, you will receive a wedding confirmation email. Plans for printing invitations should be made *after* you have received your confirmation letter and secured the date with your deposit. The remaining fee must be paid two weeks prior to the wedding.

### **CLEANING DEPOSIT**

A cleaning deposit of \$200 is required. After the ceremony, this check will be voided provided that there is no damage to the facility, and if the facility is left the way it was found prior to your group using the facility. If our Facility Manager does not find the building to be in acceptable condition, you will be notified and you will forfeit your cleaning deposit.

### **CLEAN-UP**

A custodian will be scheduled to do regular cleaning after your wedding ceremony. We do ask that anything you bring with you be taken out once the ceremony is completed. No rice, glitter, birdseed, or dark-colored flower petals (they stain), are permitted to be thrown following the ceremony. Bubbles and helium balloons are welcomed at Coram Deo (outside only, please).

### **MEET WITH YOUR WEDDING COORDINATOR**

If you have not already been contacted by your Coram Deo Wedding Coordinator, you will need to schedule a meeting with your Wedding Coordinator at least 8-10 weeks prior to your wedding rehearsal and ceremony. Your Wedding Coordinator will go over our policies, answer questions, and inform you of their responsibilities at the rehearsal and ceremony.

### **COMMUNION**

If you plan to have communion during your wedding ceremony, please use grape juice. Wine or any other alcoholic beverages are not allowed within the facility.

## **DECORATIONS**

If you choose to provide an aisle runner, the center aisle is 70 feet long. There will be a set of stairs available for you to use to access the stage from the center aisle. Due to the time and expertise involved in resetting equipment, the instruments cannot be moved from the stage in the Worship Center. You may, however, decorate around them. If you remove any plants or flowers from the stage, it is your responsibility to return them to their proper place after the wedding. Any hanging Coram Deo ministry banners should not be removed from the walls or the stage. If you want to use candles, please use battery operated candles. Except for a wedding unity candle ceremony, open flames are not allowed in the facility. Your Wedding Coordinator will work with you to approve your decorating plans.

## **THE REHEARSAL**

The wedding rehearsal normally takes place the day before the wedding. The couple is responsible for notifying all members of the wedding party of the time of rehearsal, directions, and should stress the importance of being on time. The rehearsal should not take over one hour once it starts. The Officiating Pastor and Wedding Coordinator will direct the rehearsal. Please notify all parents and wedding participants to direct questions they may have to the bride and groom who will then notify the Wedding Coordinator prior to the rehearsal. The bride & groom will be the only people allowed to make changes to the ceremony. Please do not assume that the Officiating Pastor, the Wedding Coordinator, musicians, or others are expecting to attend the rehearsal dinner unless they are invited.

## **MARRIAGE LICENSE**

It is the responsibility of the couple to obtain the Marriage License from the proper government offices. Please bring the Marriage License to your wedding rehearsal and give it to the Wedding Coordinator.

## **GRAPHICS AND VIDEO**

If you choose to use the projector screens (to display song lyrics, a background or a picture slideshow, etc.) you will need to let your Wedding Coordinator know at your first meeting. Coram Deo will not create any graphics. Video capability is available with a single camera only.