

## **BRIGHTON COMMUNITY CHURCH WEDDING POLICY**

A Christian wedding is always a time of great joy and celebration. As a church we want to do all we can to make the wedding day a memorable one for our members who are getting married. Nevertheless, do remember that building a Christian home is infinitely more important than a fairy-tale wedding. The primary purpose of going through a Christian wedding is not only to seek God's blessings on the marriage, but also to acknowledge that the Christian community has a special interest and responsibility in ensuring the success of the union. If some of the policies and guidelines appear restrictive, it is because we wish to convey the seriousness of marriage and our commitment to facilitate only such marriages which we as a community feel reasonably confident will result in lasting Christian homes. Accordingly, ***the church will not conduct wedding ceremonies for couples who choose to have their marriages solemnized at the Registry of Marriages, subject to the exception mentioned in paragraph 10.***

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Couples giving notice of their desire to have their marriages blessed by the Church must satisfy the following requirements:

1. Both parties must be formal members of Brighton Community Church who have been faithfully upholding the Membership Covenant for at least the last 6 months prior to giving notice to the Church. Those who are waiting for the next membership enrollment may inform the Church accordingly and if they begin observing the Membership Covenant even though they have not yet formally become members, the 6-month period will start running from that time.
2. Both parties must have been actively involved in a Cell Group of Brighton Community Church for at least 6 months prior to giving notice to the Church.
3. Neither party should have a living ex-spouse. Exceptions:
  - (1) When the previous marriage has been terminated on the basis of the ex-spouse's adultery; or
  - (2) When the ex-spouse being an unbeliever has taken the initiative to put an end to the previous marriage.

### **REQUIREMENTS**

At the point of giving notice to the Church, both parties must sign a written undertaking to comply with the following:

4. Both parties shall complete at their expense all premarital counselling and preparation programmes prescribed by the Church. It is compulsory for BOTH PARTIES to attend all three sessions of the Marriage Preparation Course that they have signed up for, and there will be NO MAKE UP SESSIONS if they miss any lesson(s). Couples who have finished the class must marry within 3 years, failing which they would have to re-attend.
5. Both parties shall satisfactorily complete the prescribed sessions for marriage preparation conducted by the Church's Inner Healing and Deliverance Department.
6. Both parties shall continue to faithfully uphold the Membership Covenant and be actively involved in their Cell Group(s) until the time of the wedding.
7. Prior to the solemnization of the marriage, the couple shall strictly continue to live and behave as separate individuals, and shall not engage in any conduct which suggests otherwise: e.g. living together, staying over at each other's homes, travelling overseas together or engaging in intimate physical contact.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: Brighton Community Church reserves the right not to proceed with the wedding ceremony at any point in time if, in its sole opinion:**

**A) The couple has not satisfactorily complied with the above requirements;**

**B) In the course of counseling, there is a serious doubt of the couples' compatibility or ability to fulfill their respective roles in building a Christian home.**

**The Church shall not be responsible for any damage, loss, inconvenience or embarrassment which may result to the couple by reason of such decision.**

#### **PROCEDURE**

8. Notice of intention to get married must be given in the prescribed form **at least 9 months** in advance to the Wedding Administrator, Caroline Toh ([caroline@brighton.org.sg](mailto:caroline@brighton.org.sg)) before any other preparatory steps are taken for the wedding, including but not limited to the following: fixing of wedding date, booking for wedding dinner, applying to the Registry of Marriages etc.
9. Booking of dates for the wedding ceremony will be subject to the exigencies of the Church's ministry and programs. In particular, members should take note of the following:
  - (1) No wedding ceremony will be conducted on Sundays, Friday nights, Good Friday, Easter, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. (Couples will need to write in to [churchoffice@brighton.org.sg](mailto:churchoffice@brighton.org.sg) if they wish to request for exception. The Church will review each request on a case by case basis.)
  - (2) Couples intending to marry are encouraged to have their wedding ceremonies on Saturday mornings as many Church members are involved in various ministries on Saturday afternoons and the ministry heads may not be able to excuse them.
10. The couple can choose to have their marriage solemnised at the Registry of Marriages instead of at the actual wedding ceremony **provided it is carried out not earlier than 1 day before or 1 day after the wedding ceremony conducted by the church**. Whichever mode is chosen, the couple will have to personally take responsibility themselves for diligently and promptly fulfilling all requirements specified by the Registry of Marriages.
11. For purposes of the wedding ceremony, the Church will appoint at its discretion the necessary personnel (worship leader, keyboardist, guitarist, and officiating minister **but not** interpreters, singers and ushers) and couples will not be able to ask for partial arrangement should they want the church to assign worship leaders, keyboardist or guitarist for them. The church will also not be able to provide any loaning of church equipment for weddings but will recommend suitable vendors upon request.
12. The couple is to arrange for their own decorations, gifts, bulletins, song sheets, food catering etc.