

MARRIAGE POLICY

Christ Church | Oak Brook & Downers Grove



PREAMBLE

WE BELIEVE, as set forth in the *Constitution of Christ Church of Oak Brook* (“Christ Church” or “The Church”), that the Bible, comprised of the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God and the all-sufficient rule of faith and practice.

WE BELIEVE the Bible teaches that marriage is intended by God as a lifelong covenant exclusively between a man and woman that is:

- Rooted in the order of creation (Gen 1:27 / Gen 2:24);
- Reflective of the multiplicity within the unity of God’s own person (Gen 1:27);
- Confirmed by the teaching of Jesus (Matt 19:5);
- Able to provide men and women with the most suitable helpmates (Gen 2:18);
- The essential context for the propagation and flourishing of children (Gen 1:28); and
- A prophetic reflection of the relationship between Christ and the Church (Eph 5:25).

WE BELIEVE that God calls us to celibacy in singleness and to fidelity within the covenant of a marriage between a man and a woman. We view non-married heterosexual intimate relations, homosexual intimate relations, and adultery as sins from which Scripture calls us to turn. (Rom 1:26-27; 1 Cor 6:18; Eph 5:3).

POLICY

In light of these beliefs...

- 1. We require that a substantive PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING process accompany any marriage performed by a pastor of Christ Church.** Further information about the process and content of such counseling is available through our Wedding Coordinator.
- 2. We ask non-married COHABITING couples to separate their household arrangement and/or refrain from sexual relations prior to their being married.**
- 3. Christ Church performs MARRIAGES only between a man and a woman.** This policy applies to all ministers of the Church and to all marriages they perform, on or off Christ Church’s premises. The Church does not permit its facilities to be used for any marriages other than those between a man and a woman.
- 4. Christ Church may perform marriages of DIVORCED men and women,** subject to a pastoral assessment of the circumstances, the partners’ Christian maturity, and readiness to undertake a new God-honoring marriage.

This document supersedes the Policy on Marriage & Redemptive Community adopted by the Board of Elders in January 2016.