

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have decided to get married!

We are glad you are considering River Ridge Church to share in your marriage. Great marriages don't just happen on their own... Great marriages take preparation and hard work. In this regard, we think of marriage in two ways: preparing for a great marriage, and working to maintain a great marriage.

We encourage you to contact River Ridge as soon as you get engaged so that you have the most preparation for your marriage. In addition, you must be attending River Ridge on a regular basis, or have a parent/s who attend on a regular basis and have been doing so for at least the past six months.

Below are some important pieces of information that will help guide you through the process

OUR WEDDING PROCESS

1. Couple reads through the River Ridge Church Wedding Guidelines together.
 2. Couple fills out our Wedding Registration Form together.
 - [Wedding Registration Form](#)
 3. Couple has a conversation and meeting with a pastor.
 4. Couple schedules counseling sessions.
 5. Couple gets married (HOORAY!).
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OUR WEDDING GUIDELINES

River Ridge Church will not join an unbeliever to a believer in marriage (2 Corinthians 6:14-18). The Bible is clear about spiritual compatibility between marriage partners.

1. At least one of the people being married must be a River Ridge Church regular attendee (attending at least twice a month), who has been here for at least six months or have a parent who is a regular attendee.
2. We prefer the bride and groom to have maintained a dating relationship for a minimum of one year before their wedding date.
3. The bride and groom will be required to participate in premarital counseling (detailed in "PREMARITAL COUNSELING" section below).
4. We believe that marriage is the union between a man and a woman as defined in Genesis 2:24.
5. We ask that the bride and groom abstain from sexual promiscuity prior to marriage. Sex is a gift from God to be received in a marital union. The Bible gives

- us clear instructions for sex within the parameters of the marriage relationship (1 Corinthians 6:18-20, 1 Corinthians 7:2). Understanding this is God's best for you and your marriage, we will ask you to abstain from sexual intimacy. Sexual purity before marriage leads to the best sexual intimacy after marriage.
6. We suggest at least one year of legal divorce or time after the death of a spouse before considering remarriage. River Ridge Church believes a new relationship should not be pursued until the potential for a healthy reconciliation has been exhausted and time for personal recovery has passed.
 7. We offer pre-marital counseling to those who are part of River Ridge who will be married by someone other than a River Ridge Pastor if they are willing to follow the guidelines set forth in this document.
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PREMARITAL COUNSELING

The premarital program is designed to help prepare engaged couples for strong, lasting marriages based on biblical principles. We want to see couples build the kind of foundation which allows them to have a marriage which will last a lifetime. We want to help every couple get started in their married life on a firm foundation. Each step in the premarital process has been designed with that end in mind. This process is required for couples wishing to be married at River Ridge Church or by one of our pastors/officiates.

The premarital process may include the following:

1. Take the online inventory Prepare/Enrich (\$35). This is an online tool which assesses a couple's strengths and growth areas.
 2. Purchasing a marriage book/ workbook
 3. Homework between sessions.
 4. Meet 3-5 times with one of our pastors/officiates.
 5. In some cases your pre-marital counseling may be done with someone other than the pastor who performs the ceremony.
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OTHER INFORMATION

BUILDING AVAILABILITY: As a part of the process, the building scheduler will work with you on availability, reservations and various fees associated with having your wedding at River Ridge Church. Please contact the office to discuss availability

Charleston: (304) 347-8585

Teays Valley: (304) 397-6173

PASTOR/OFFICIATE FEES: There is no cost/ fee for pre-marital counseling. An honorarium to the officiant is typical but not required.

WEDDING COORDINATOR: River Ridge Church does not have a wedding coordinator at this time, so any details concerning the ceremony including flowers, décor, etc are assumed being handled by the bride/groom. Times for decorating will be worked out with the building scheduler or building supervisor.

NON-ATTENDEES: If you do not attend River Ridge, you may have your wedding at River Ridge and officiated by a non-River Ridge pastor. Weddings of this sort will be scheduled directly with the building coordinator and may not be scheduled more that 6 months ahead. The officiant that you choose needs to be approved by a River Ridge pastor.

If you have read the Wedding Guidelines of River Ridge Church and would like to take the next step in being married, please fill out our [Wedding Registration Form](#)