

It is the desire of Atlanta Christian Church that all weddings held in the building be of the type that honor Christ and proclaim the sacredness of marriage and the home. With this in view, the user must comply with the following guidelines:

Premarital Counseling

This will be an agreement between the couple (*see attached position on marriage) and the officiating minister on the amount of counseling that is needed.

Building Reservations

Wedding couples are encouraged to make building reservations six months in advance. If more than one couple is interested in the same date, priority will be given to the party which reserved first.

Officiating Minister

Weddings held in the Atlanta Christian Church building will be officiated by a minister or elder of the congregation. Other ministers may officiate if permission is secured from the ACC leadership. The officiating minister must still be the one recognized as “performing” the ceremony. He will lead in the vows, make the pronouncement, and sign the wedding license. The officiating minister will oversee both the rehearsal and wedding ceremony. Everyone involved in the wedding will take directions from the officiating minister. This minister will work closely with the bride and groom to plan and coordinate the wedding ceremony. All wedding participants are required to be present at the rehearsal if possible.

Music

All wedding music (live or pre-recorded) must be appropriate for a Christian assembly and be approved by the officiating minister. All musicians must be present at the wedding rehearsal and must be respectful of the musical instruments, sound system equipment, etc.

Sound Technician

All weddings are required to have a sound technician to run the sound board. This person must be one of the church’s approved operators of our sound system. **A \$50 fee is due to the sound technician on the day of the wedding and the check must be payable directly to them.**

Church Property

Church property may only be moved with the direction of the officiating minister.

Responsibilities of All Wedding Participants

All decorations are the wedding party’s responsibility and need to be taken down the same day as the wedding.

-All bird seed (no rice or confetti) must be passed as guests exit the building and must be thrown away from the entry doors.

-All dressing rooms are to be cleared of the wedding party’s possessions after the wedding as soon as possible.

-The wedding party is responsible for the stage setup and church furniture under the supervision of the officiating minister. The stage must be set up at the rehearsal and it must be put back to the original status after the wedding.

-The wedding party may be given names of pianists and organists which they may ask to participate in their ceremony.

(It is their responsibility to contact and secure them.)

-The wedding party will be responsible for the purchase of all the music used at the wedding.

-We strongly prefer that no weddings or receptions will last longer than 7:00 pm on Saturdays and 8:00 pm on Mondays – Fridays. We also prefer that no weddings be scheduled on Sundays and Holidays.

- No animals are to be used in the wedding unless the person needs the help of a Seeing Eye dog.

-Food and drink are not permitted in the sanctuary.

Decorations

General Guidelines:

-Nails, tacks, staples, pins, tape, or anything which may mar the wood work, walls, or furnishings cannot be used. The furniture and floors must be fully protected at all times from moisture and candle wax. No items may be placed on the piano or organ with the exception of temporary lamps. All decorations must be appropriate and approved by the Officiating Minister. All decorations and equipment must be removed immediately after the ceremony. The church building must be left in the same condition in which it was found.

- In case of damage, the wedding couple will be held responsible for all charges necessary to repair the damages.

Floral Decorations

-Flowers are often a significant part of your decorating. As you plan with a florist, consider arrangements that will complement the beauty and worshipful nature of the room. We ask that you do not use DRIED or PRESERVED FLOWERS because of the mess.

Candles

-Candles are permitted in your ceremony if you use non-drip candles and put down plastic.

Aisle Runner

-The dropping of flower petals in the sanctuary is permitted only when an aisle runner is used.

Wedding Programs

-The wedding couple is responsible for the preparing of the programs for their wedding. The church will have no responsibility in preparing them.

Photography

-We ask that the photographer check with the officiating minister as to permissible use. Camera equipment will be limited in the sanctuary and should not be placed in ways that could mar and damage the church pews or furniture.

Use of Rice, Bird Seed, or Confetti

-Bird seed, if used, must be thrown outside the church building. Bird seed packets should be given as the guests leave the building. **The use of rice and confetti is NOT permitted.**

Etiquette

Wedding guests are expected to conduct themselves in a way becoming of a religious service. Those participating in the wedding in any way (soloists, photographers, musicians, etc.) will be expected to dress appropriately.

-Drinking alcoholic beverages and smoking are prohibited everywhere on the church property. The officiating minister will ask the guests not behaving appropriately to leave.

Rehearsal

A rehearsal is necessary except for the smallest wedding. The wedding couple will need to set a date early in their plans for the wedding rehearsal which is usually a day before the wedding. If there is to be a rehearsal dinner, plan the rehearsal to come before the dinner. Rehearsals should begin before 7:00 pm. A building use policy agreement must be signed for use of The Gate or basement fellowship hall for the rehearsal or reception.

-All participants, including the couple, attendants, ushers, musicians, vocalists, and parents, are requested for the rehearsal. This is necessary in order to give instructions to all participants and to set sound system levels.

-Rehearsals usually take 60 minutes to complete. Make sure that all wedding party members are on time. The marriage license should be given to the minister at the rehearsal. Officiating minister's fee will be agreed upon privately between the wedding party and the minister.

Responsibility for Safekeeping of Personal Items

Every possible effort will be made to protect personal items such as wedding dresses, purses, etc. However, **THE CHURCH WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH ITEMS IF LOST, STOLEN, OR DAMAGED.** It is strongly advised that money, jewelry, and other valuables not be left unattended in the dressing rooms but entrusted to a reliable person of their choice, or simply not be brought into the church at all.

Atlanta Christian Church is not responsible for accidents or injuries occurring or sustained upon its premises. It is understood that the use of all areas of the church facility are conditioned upon the express understanding that Atlanta Christian Church is not liable for injuries sustained upon the premises. The applicant agrees to assume all risks and liability for the use of the church facilities and for injuries or death to persons or damages to property arising therefrom. The applicant agrees to indemnify the Atlanta Christian Church of Atlanta, IL, its officers and agents, and hold them harmless from all claims, actions, proceedings, costs, damages, and liabilities, including attorney's fees, arising out of, connected with, or resulting from the use of church facilities. The applicant agrees to be responsible for strict compliance with all the rules and regulations governing the use of the church facilities pursuant to this agreement.

If you have any questions please contact the church office at 217-648-2464 or atlantachristianfamily@gmail.com

Atlanta Christian Church Position on Marriage

In the Bible (Gen. 2:21-25) it is written that “God created the institution of marriage.” Therefore, we believe that God’s Word should be our source of authority for defining marriage and setting the boundaries for the marriage relationship. We believe that God intends marriage to be a monogamous, life-long, loving relationship between a male and a female (man and woman) (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:6). We hold that marriage is the most important of all human relationships and is promoted by God as the best environment for relational intimacy (Gen 2:18, 25) and child rearing (Gen 1:27-28). Unmarried couples who are co-habiting are asked to repent of their sexual impurity and separate for a time before they may be married in the church by our minister.

More details can be attained by reviewing article VII of Atlanta Christian Church’s bylaws.