

Weddings

At New Life Church
For Members

Policies and Procedures

Updated October, 2009

Congratulations on your engagement to marriage! Marriage is the most beautiful and lasting of human relationships. We rejoice with you in your decision to wed, and we're honored you would consider us to be a part of your big day.

There are many places to be married. Some choose a home, a Justice of the Peace office, an outdoor garden, or some other beautiful setting. You are considering getting married in a church, and we think that is great. There is no better way to start your marriage than in a church with Jesus at the center of your wedding. If you choose New Life Church as the place for your wedding, we'll do everything we can to make this day the most joyous day of your life and the beginning of a wonderful, godly marriage.

One way we try to be a blessing is to provide you with a personal Wedding Coordinator. She will help outline for you the steps that will make your planning for this special day as easy as possible. She'll also be able to answer most of your questions about using NLC facilities. In addition, we've developed the following policies that we believe are essential to help you have both a beautiful wedding ceremony and a wonderful married life following it—and at the same time to best preserve our facilities to be a blessing to many others for years to come.

Personal Preparation for Marriage

Your Faith – Marriage can be a source of the greatest joy in life when it is centered on the Lord Jesus Christ. Because we want the best for your marriage, and because we are a Christian church, the first requirement for being married in our church is that one or preferably both the bride and groom be Christian – that you have made Jesus the Lord of your life. If you cannot honestly make such a claim, we request you find another venue for your wedding. If you are not sure what it means to be a Christian or would like to learn more about it, we would love to talk with you about it (please ask your Wedding Coordinator or contact the church office).

Pastoral Care – In order to have a Christian wedding, you'll need a Christian minister to perform the ceremony. Most often, one of the pastors of New Life will serve you in this. If you prefer another ordained, evangelical minister from outside of New Life to perform your wedding, please submit his contact information to the New Life Wedding Coordinator.

We request that you go through pre-marital counseling with your minister before the wedding. If you use a minister at New Life Church, we encourage you to go through the pre-marital counseling program at New Life.

Planning Your Special Day

New Life Wedding Coordinator – Your NLC Wedding Coordinator will be your point of contact and liaison with the church. She will help you secure a date for your big event, answer your questions, secure a minister (and pre-marital counseling) if needed, and will make sure that the facility is ready and staffed for your wedding ceremony.

Media Services – Our sound, lighting, and video systems will provide the highest quality experience for your wedding. Because these systems are very complicated and require special skills to run, we will assign a sound technician and a lighting technician to your rehearsal and ceremony. These techs are included in your basic wedding fee. If you wish to show a video at your wedding, a video technician will also be provided at extra cost.

Private Wedding Consultants – You are welcome to engage a private wedding coordinator or consultant (in addition to your NLC Wedding Coordinator) to help in other areas of your service (decorations, flowers, catering, etc.). However, all wedding plans, music, and videos used in the NLC facility must be approved by the NLC Wedding Coordinator. Alternately, you may independently contract with your New Life Wedding Coordinator to work with you on other elements of your wedding outside of facility issues.

Alcohol Consumption – In making your plans, please keep in mind that New Life Church does not allow alcohol consumption on its property. If you have a reception on the premises, no alcohol may be served. An exception can be made for a Champaign toast.

Use of New Life Facilities

New Life Church offers a beautiful sanctuary which will hold up to 520 guests. Set on an idyllic hill overlooking the city of Denton, it is a wonderful setting for your wedding. The facility has the potential of holding smaller receptions (100 people) in its foyer and outside porches. We offer a bridal room and rooms for the groomsmen.

Availability and Scheduling

Our primary purpose in hosting weddings is to enable our members to celebrate their union and to begin married life with their New Life Church family. Therefore, we will give priority in scheduling to wedding parties in which either the bride or the groom or one of their parents are active members of the church.

To the extent that our facilities are available, we will schedule a limited number of weddings for those who are not active members of New Life Church in order to help them to begin their marriages under the blessing and authority of Christ.

Typically, we schedule your use of the building for one hour for the rehearsal; two hours for decoration; two hours for arrival, wedding, and photography; one hour for the reception; and one hour for removal of the wedding party's decorations and property. In order to

allow adequate time to prepare the building for Sunday morning, Saturday weddings may not be scheduled later than 5:30 PM. If a reception is to follow at the church, the wedding may be scheduled no later than 4:30 PM.

After reviewing your Wedding Application, discussing your wedding plans, and checking our church calendar, your New Life Wedding Coordinator will determine whether and when the facilities can be available for your wedding.

Requirements for Facility Care

God has given us this wonderful facility to be a blessing to you, but also to many others for years to come. To help us get the building ready for its next use a few hours after your wedding and to help prevent undue damage and wear on the facilities, we require that all in your wedding party abide by the following rules:

No Smoking – Smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the building (including restrooms and dressing rooms) or within 20 feet of any entrance. Cigarette butts on the exteriors must be discarded in a trash receptacle and not on the ground.

Music and Sound Equipment – No musical or sound equipment may be moved, operated, adjusted, etc. by anyone other than NLC technical staff.

Candles – Candles must have protective material placed under the stands to ensure against possible drips. Any candles placed along the aisles must be protected by glass chimneys or other non-flammable coverings; and this arrangement requires inspection and approval of the NLC Wedding Coordinator. Any wax drippings left on any surface will be result in forfeiture of the damage deposit.

Birdseed, Rice, Flower Petals, Etc. – To avoid staining of floor finishes, only silk flower petals may be thrown by the flower girl. No rice, birdseed, confetti, or other items may be thrown inside or outside. No loose glitter may be used inside the building. Bubbles may be used outside.

Prompt Removal of Wedding Party Property – Because of limited NLC storage space, all equipment, decorations, etc. provided by the wedding party, must be removed on the day of the event.

Liability – NLC is not liable for any items that are lost, stolen, or damaged while on church property. This includes any items owned, borrowed, or rented by the wedding party.

Wedding Fees at New Life

Our desire is to be a blessing to the community. The use of our facilities is a ministry offered to you by the members of New Life Church. However, there are costs involved in

using these facilities and in securing the extra staff required to help you have a great wedding.

Basic Fee for Rehearsal and Wedding – \$450 (this includes Scheduling Deposit)

The church will provide you with a Wedding Coordinator, Sound Technician, Lighting Technician, and Custodial Crew. They will prepare the building for your rehearsal and wedding (climate control, chair arrangement, room set up, etc.), help coordinate the actual service, provide for your media needs, clean the facility after your wedding party removes all of its decorations and property, and prepare the church for services the next day. These staff members are required for all weddings at New Life, they will each spend several hours working for your wedding, and their pay is included in your basic wedding fee.

Video Technician (*Optional*) – \$100

If you want to show video in your wedding, a New Life video technician will be required. Note: this is not a videographer. You will need to contract an outside source to record your wedding.

New Life Pastors (*Optional*) – \$250

Your New Life pastor will spend several hours helping make your ceremony a blessing to you and your family and an honor to God. If you wish to bring an approved minister from outside of New Life Church to perform your ceremony, we recommend an appropriate honorarium.

Childcare (*Optional*) – Varies

Some will choose to offer childcare during the wedding. This fee depends on the number of children for which care is provided. This fee is \$15.00 per hour per 4 children (add \$5.00 per hour for each additional child).

Reception – Varies

There is no fee to use our foyer for a light reception. However, you will be responsible for all set-up and cleaning of foyer, café, and kitchen. If you would like to use our facility for a larger catered reception, the fee is \$600. This type of reception will take place in the Living Room following the wedding and other requirements must be met in order for this to take place. For more information, please contact the Wedding Coordinator.

What to do Next

What's your next step? If you want New Life Church to be a part of your special day, here's where to start:

- ❖ At least two months prior to your wedding, submit your New Life Wedding Application Form online: www.newlifedenton.org, click on "Belong". Your NLC Wedding Coordinator will contact you, discuss your needs, accept a \$100 Scheduling Deposit from you, and schedule your wedding dates on the church calendar. (Note: a cancellation less than 1 month before the scheduled wedding date will result in forfeiture of this \$100 Scheduling Deposit).

- ❖ Schedule pre-marital counseling with your pastor and begin faithfully attending the sessions.
- ❖ Pay the remainder of your wedding fees on or before the wedding date.
- ❖ At least 72 hours before your wedding, you must secure a marriage license from the State of Texas. Contact the Denton County Courthouse for more information. You must have a license for a minister to perform your ceremony.

Again, we are so excited to be a part of your wedding. Please contact your pastor or the church office if we may answer any other questions or help in any other way. May the Lord bless your marriage!

“So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

Matthew 19:6 (NIV)

New Life Wedding Application

Your Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Future Spouse Name: _____

Are you a Christian? Yes No Not Sure

Is your future spouse a Christian? Yes No Not Sure

Where do you both attend church? _____

How can we minister to you?

Do you have a pastor to perform the service? If yes:

Name: _____

Church: _____

Phone: _____

Would you like a minister from New Life to perform the service? Yes or No

Do you have an outside wedding coordinator? Yes or No

Would you like to talk to the New Life Wedding Coordinator
about coordinating your wedding? Yes or No

Are you planning to use video in your service? Yes or No

Will you need childcare for your service? Yes or No

Approximately how many children will need care? _____

Are you planning to use New Life Church for your reception? Yes or No

Wedding Coordinator Worksheet

Date:

__/__/__

Dates Desired (please check with master calendar before offering potential dates):

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

Time of Service: _____

Time and Date of Rehearsal: _____

New Life Minister to be used? Who? _____

Pre-Marital Counseling Needed? Yes or No

Childcare Needed? Yes or No

How many children? _____

How long? _____

Number of workers (1 worker per 4 children) _____

Scheduling Deposit Check received:

By: _____

Date: _____

Amount: _____

Balance: _____

Next Payment due: _____