



Congratulations to both of you on having made one of the most significant decisions of your lives! While we believe making Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior is the most important life-changing decision you can make, choosing the one with whom you will spend the rest of your life in the sacred covenant of marriage is incredibly significant. Now that you have chosen to commit yourselves to one another, we encourage you to make and keep Christ the center of your engagement, your marriage and your home.

At Exceeding Grace Christian Center, we are committed to working with you to see that your wedding places God at its center and is worshipful, memorable and personal. May God continue to bless you as you look to Him for guidance regarding this important event.

THE ENGAGEMENT COVENANT

Believing that marriage is a holy and sacred gift from God, it is our desire that couples approach marriage according to biblical standards and in a way that is pleasing to God. In this regard, we reserve the right to decline officiating a wedding if couples do not agree with the “engagement covenant” which includes the following:

1. A Covenant of Belief – Believing that God has intended Christians to marry only Christians, we require that both bride and groom individually come to an understanding and acceptance of Christ’s sacrificial death, and that commitment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be made evident. (11 Corinthians 6:14-16; Romans 10:9-10)
2. A Covenant of Purity – Believing that the sexual relationship has been designed and intended for marriage, we ask that you agree to abstain from any sexual relationship until after the wedding. Furthermore, believing that living arrangements that include cohabitation prior to the wedding is a compromise of your Christian witness, we ask that you agree to separate living arrangements until the wedding. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Romans 13:13KJV)
3. A Covenant of Faithfulness – Believing that the Church is God’s Greenhouse to grow strong marriages, we ask that you find a place of involvement in His Church, the Body of Christ, and pursue a lifestyle of faithfulness to your church family. (Hebrews 10:19-25)
4. Furthermore, we agree with the biblical definition of marriage between **one man/one woman**, according to (Genesis 2:21-25, Romans 1:24-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10). Therefore, no marriage shall be performed or sanctioned by Exceeding Grace Christian Center Pastors or Staff outside **one man/one woman**

Marriage was created and designed by God to be a beautiful, harmonious, and lasting estate. Since **God instituted marriage**, He intends for you to enter into this covenant relationship soberly, reverently, and advisedly. Marriage must never be taken lightly, as your vows are not only to your partner; **you are making a commitment to God Himself.**

It is the position and responsibility of **Exceeding Grace Christian Center** and **Apostle Jonathan M. Anderson, Sr.**, to make sure individuals are ready to marry based on the Word of God. Please complete this questionnaire (*One Questionnaire Per Person*) so that we may proceed with your pre-marital counseling.



PRE-MARITAL CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Today's Date: _____

Name: _____

Fiancée': _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Telephone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Wedding Ceremony Date: _____

What church are you a member of? _____

How long? _____ Would you describe yourself as an active member? Yes No

Pastor's Name: _____ Phone: _____

When and how did you come to be "born again"? _____

Briefly describe your walk with Christ: _____

Briefly describe your partner's walk with Christ? _____

What is your personal vision for your marriage? _____

Have you been married before? If yes briefly describe that relationship and how/why it ended. Please include the names and ages of any children from that relationship. _____



Has your fiancée' been married before? If yes, how did he or she describe that relationship to you? Please include the names of any children from that previous marriage. _____

Have you sincerely prayed to God about this permanent step you are taking? If yes, briefly describe the way you received your answer from God. _____

Are you and your fiancée currently living in the same household? If so, please provide the details or circumstances surrounding this arrangement. _____

To the best of your knowledge, are you or your fiancée sexually active with each other or anyone else?



WEDDING POLICY

1. It is the policy of Exceeding Grace Christian Center that either the bride or groom be an **active member** (faithful attendance/tithing/completed Membership Course) of Exceeding Grace Christian Center for at least six months prior to the wedding date.
2. It is the policy of Exceeding Grace Christian Center that all couples complete a minimum of **four (4) hours premarital counseling** with the Pastor or designee **prior** to the wedding. No wedding will be performed at or by the Exceeding Grace Christian Center staff without this qualification.
3. **All** couples must make an appointment with EGCC's Sr. Pastor for pre-marital consultation **no less than three months prior to the wedding date** (unless given special exception by EGCC's Sr. Pastor)
4. **All** weddings must be under the officiating staff of Exceeding Grace Christian Center.
5. The wedding and rehearsal date must be arranged with the church Administrator. **The date will be reserved upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit:** \$100, which will be applied to the officiating minister's fee listed below.
6. Times available for weddings at Exceeding Grace Christian Center are as follows: Friday evening weddings must begin no later than 6:00pm (with the understanding that all wedding decorations be removed by 9:00am Saturday). Saturday weddings must be set to start between 11:00am and 4:00pm (with the understanding that all wedding decorations be removed by 7:00pm Saturday). **Weddings cannot be scheduled on Sundays, holidays or when there is a church calendar conflict.** Exceeding Grace Christian Center is available for the wedding ceremony only. The Sanctuary has a seating capacity of approximately 150.
7. The marriage license must be given to the Church Administrator prior to ceremony rehearsal (during business hours).
8. **All fees MUST be received** no later than 30 days before the wedding date. Approximately 6 weeks prior to the wedding you will be sent a reminder list of all fees. Please enclose check, money order or cashier's check (payable to Exceeding Grace Christian Center) and deliver them to the church office. **If fees are not paid by this time, your wedding will be canceled!**
9. Exceeding Grace Christian Center cannot accept delivery of dresses for the bride or any other members of the wedding party, nor can the delivery of equipment, food, or flowers be accepted ahead of the scheduled access time. **Exceeding Grace Christian Center cannot be responsible for valuables and personal effects, which are brought to the church and left unattended. Exceeding Grace Christian Center assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged items.**



STAFF COORDINATOR

It is the policy of EXCEEDING GRACE CHRISTIAN CENTER that the EGCC Staff Coordinator be used. The EGCC Staff Coordinator will communicate to the Pastor all details and procedures concerning the rehearsal and ceremony. The EGCC Staff Coordinator will be available for the bride to call regarding any last minute questions or details. Services of a EGCC Staff Coordinator are mandatory.

The EGCC Staff Coordinator will check and confirm date and time of your wedding if available. Reservation for the space in your name must be done at least 60 days prior to your wedding day (unless given special exception by Sr. Pastor) and will be guaranteed upon receipt of a signed application, deposit and approval. Please make checks payable to Exceeding Grace Christian Center. The application and check should be returned to Exceeding Grace Christian Center, 2361 7th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712.

It is your responsibility to schedule all vendors. The EGCC Staff Coordinator will assist by providing a resource list, if requested. The person scheduling the wedding will be held liable for any damage to carpets, furniture or buildings so it is important that you carefully note the guidelines included herein and make sure that all vendors are so informed. EGCC reserves the right to restrict the privileges of any outside vendor who violates the wedding policy of the church.

A **one-hour closed rehearsal** will be scheduled during the week preceding the wedding. (NO additional guest please) It must begin and end on time and should include all members of the wedding party (including, but not limited to participating parents, flower girl, ring bearer, special attendees).

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

Florists will have access to the location of the wedding ceremony two hours prior to the wedding. When the ceremony is concluded and all photography completed, we ask that all areas be cleaned and all flowers and decorations be removed immediately. The church cannot store any wedding decorations nor is it responsible for any items left behind by vendors. Church furniture or decorations are not to be moved without prior approval.

No decoration of any kind is to be applied to walls, ceilings or glass. Florist wire, ribbon or pipe cleaners may be used when necessary. Nails, thumb tacks, staples or adhesives of any kind are not permitted.

No plain wax candles are to be used. Candles need to be spring loaded, dripless or paradise brand. Votive or dripless candles may be used in hurricane lamps only. Aisle candles are permitted in hurricane lamps only however, EGCC assumes no liability for damaged items. In order to protect the carpet and furniture, protective/fire resistant material must be placed under all floral arrangements and candles.

For flower girls, only artificial flowers or petals may be used.

NOTE: No confetti or glitter may be used at any time in the sanctuary.



MUSIC & MEDIA

Due to the sophisticated nature of the sound and lighting system, only a EGCC Technician can operate them. The EGCC Staff Coordinator is responsible for booking a technician for your wedding ceremony.

CD's/Mp3's/DVD's/Electronic media must be turned in to the EGCC Staff Coordinator no later than two (2) weeks prior to the ceremony to be **pre-approved**. After pre-approval we will forward them to our Media Department to be used for your wedding ceremony.

It is the policy of Exceeding Grace Christian Center that all live musicians be approved. Live musicians must provide their own musical instruments (including Keyboard, drums). EGCC assumes no responsibility for payment to musicians or damaged instruments/equipment. We encourage music that has been developed for a church setting. Sacred, contemporary Christian, hymns and classical instrumental music are appropriate. Some secular wedding and love songs are permissible with approval.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

Exceeding Grace Christian Center does not have a photographer on staff. However, all photographers must be made aware and abide by these photography rules:

- **No flash photography during the ceremony**, except at the bridal entrance from halfway down center aisle, and from the back as the bride and groom exit after the ceremony.
- Pictures taken during the ceremony must be taken from the seating area, with limited additional lighting or distractions. Once the ceremony begins the photographer should remain stationary to prevent any disruption to the ceremony
- Parts of the ceremony may be posed before or reposed after the service if desired, but the photography session should last no longer than 30 minutes unless there is some unusual circumstance.
- Videography is allowed, but must be done with minimal lighting or distraction. The church does not provide a video camera, however videotaping is allowed. Video equipment should be positioned in fixed locations during the ceremony.

NOTE: The location chosen for the wedding and the surrounding church grounds, when available, may be used for photographs immediately before and after the ceremony.

CHILDCARE

Due to liability issues, EGCC does NOT provide child care during weddings.



REMINDERS

Exceeding Grace Christian Center is dedicated to the worship of God and therefore we ask that you treat the grounds, building, sanctuary and ceremony with reverence and respect. Members of the wedding party and guests must abide by the following guidelines, which will be strictly enforced. Any breach of these rules will result in the immediate removal of the wedding party and guests from the church grounds.

- ❖ Use of inappropriate language is prohibited.
- ❖ Proper dress is required at the rehearsal and the wedding.
- ❖ The use of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, drugs, or items resembling such is strictly prohibited on the premises. No one under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be allowed to participate in the rehearsal or wedding.
- ❖ Only birdseeds may be thrown outside of the building. No confetti, glitter or rice is allowed at any time within the church building.

For further information regarding weddings at Exceeding Grace Christian Center or to verify available dates, contact the EGCC Staff Coordinator at (727) 323-8278 or email admin@exceedinggrace.cc.

FEES

Pre-marital Counseling / Officiating Honorarium (must be paid upon completion of counseling)	\$300.00
Custodian	\$250.00
Sound Technician/Media (Use of screen for video presentations included)	\$250.00

Additional Fees: Coordinator

Exceeding Grace Christian Center assumes no responsibility for lost or stolen items.

A deposit of \$100.00, along with a completed Pre Marital Counseling package, is required to enter counseling. Please make checks payable to Exceeding Grace Christian Center.

The remaining fees are due 30 days prior to the wedding. These fees are refundable if the wedding is cancelled 30 days or more prior to the wedding date.



WEDDING APPLICATION

BRIDE'S INFORMATION

Name: _____
Current Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____
Email Address: _____
Date of Birth: _____
EGCC Member? Yes No If no, Church Affiliation? _____

GROOM'S INFORMATION

Name: _____
Current Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Other Phone: _____
Email Address: _____
Date of Birth: _____
EGCC Member? Yes No If no, Church Affiliation? _____

WEDDING INFORMATION

Wedding Date: _____ Time: _____
Location (other than EGCC): _____
Address: _____
Contact: _____
Rehearsal Date: _____ Time: _____
Number in wedding party: _____ Number of expected guests: _____ Set-up Time: _____

We have read the Wedding Policy and Guidelines of Souls Harvest Fellowship and agree to comply with all that is written therein: (A \$100 nonrefundable security deposit is required with this application)

Bride: _____ Date: _____

Groom: _____ Date: _____

Approved by: _____ Date: _____