



Lakewood Church Wedding Guidelines

Off-Site Weddings

Lakewood Church believes in the sanctity of marriage according to Mark 10:6-9 *"But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. 'Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate"*

A wedding is one of the most important days in a person's life, and we want to make your wedding at Lakewood Church as wonderful as possible. The following are the Lakewood Church Wedding Guidelines Off-Site Weddings to help plan for your special day:

Lakewood Minister

Everyone desiring to be married at Lakewood Church must agree to have an ordained Lakewood Church minister. A list of available ministers will be provided upon request. Due to their schedules, our Pastors Joel and Victoria are not available for weddings.

Marriage License

A Texas marriage license is required for all weddings to take place through Lakewood Church. Each couple is responsible for obtaining their marriage license through their county clerk's office and should be valid at the time of the wedding.

Pre-Marital Course

We're excited about our partnership with *Twogether in Texas*. In the Texas legislature, a bill passed in 2007 that further expands healthy marriage efforts in Texas by encouraging those planning to marry to complete eight hours of research-based instruction on skills including managing conflict, communication, and elements of a successful marriage. Couples who complete eight hours of instruction may waive the 72-hour waiting period between license, application and marriage.

Our pre-marital course "Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts" offers eight one-hour classes every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. If you complete our pre-marital classes and present the *Twogether In Texas* certificate to the county clerk's office when you are applying





for your Texas marriage license, the \$60 state portion of the marriage license fee will be waived. Counties may add up to \$22 in additional fees to a marriage license. Those local fees will not be waived.

Everyone desiring to be married at Lakewood Church or at an off-site location by a Lakewood minister **must** complete **(as a couple)** the required pre-marital course offered at Lakewood Church. Upon completion of the course, attendees will receive a certificate of completion that will allow them to be married by a Lakewood minister.

Wedding Department

- The Wedding Department is your key contact at Lakewood Church for use of the church facility or contacting a Lakewood minister for your wedding.
- A wedding coordinator will be assigned to your wedding four weeks prior to your date. They will reach out to you to go over all the details of your wedding and make sure you have all the information that you need.
- Please contact our Wedding Department at 713-491-1410 or lakewoodweddings@lakewood.cc for answers to questions and additional information.

Off-Site Weddings

You may request a Lakewood Church ordained minister to perform your wedding at an off-site location, provided that the wedding is in the Greater Houston Area.

Making a Reservation

Due to the large number of wedding requests, the church is only able to accommodate members of Lakewood Church. If you are interested in obtaining a file number, please call our Customer Service Department at 1-800-278-0520.

- Your initial request for reserving an off-site wedding should be made with a wedding coordinator by telephone and through e-mail.
- Dates are only confirmed after the wedding department receives a completed **Wedding Booking Form**. A confirmation e-mail and invoice will be sent when wedding date has been confirmed.





Fee

- Expense Fee: \$250

We consider the Greater Houston Area to include the following areas:

North: Spring **East:** Pasadena **South:** Pearland **West:** Katy/ Sugarland

- If the location of your wedding is outside of these areas, please contact the wedding department for pricing.
- Payments are due one month prior to the wedding date.
- The payments can be made at the Lakewood Bookstore. Please provide them with your wedding invoice, so we can ensure that your account is credited. We accept cash, checks, debit card and all major credit cards.
- Once a minister has been confirmed, they will reach out to you to discuss the wedding ceremony. Please provide them with the order of service and information that applies to them.
- The minister is not required to attend the rehearsal.
- After the ceremony, please make sure the minister is given the marriage license to sign. They will hand it back to the designated person. The couple is responsible for submitting the marriage license back to the county clerk's office. The minister will send a picture copy to the church to have on file as well.
- Please do not give any payments directly to the minister. All payments should be paid to the Lakewood Bookstore, prior to wedding date.
- Renewal ceremonies are available for off-site locations, not for Chapel or Office Weddings.

Music

- As you are selecting the music for your wedding, please remember that it is a service of worship. Only music that is suitable for a worship service may be used. Contemporary Christian, hymns and classical instrumental music are acceptable. Pre-recorded instrumental or vocal tracks may be used in your wedding.





We reserve the right to stop any activity during the ceremony that we deem inappropriate or in contradiction with the spiritual or ethical standards of Lakewood Church.

We appreciate your cooperation and congratulate you on your upcoming marriage.

Additional Pre-Marital Preparation

The church recommends the following books for further pre-marital preparation:

Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts, Les & Leslie Parrott
Our Best Life Together, Joel & Victoria Osteen
The Seven Principles for Making Your Marriage Work, John Gottman
The Five Love Languages, Gary Chapman
Before You Say "I Do", H. Norman Wright

Recommended Reading:

For Couples:

After You Say "I Do" Devotional, H. Norman Wright
The Seven Principles for Making Your Marriage Work, John Gottman
First Years of Forever, Ed Wheat
Love and Marriage, John Osteen
Six Lies the Devil Uses to Destroy Marriages, Lisa Comes
The Act of Marriage, Tim and Beverly LaHaye

Especially For Men:

If Only He Knew, Gary Smalley

Especially For Women:

For Better or For Best, Gary Smalley

These and other marriage resources may be purchased in the Lakewood bookstore.

