Weddings at Immanuel

FAQs

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding!
At Immanuel, we believe marriage is an important spiritual milestone in the lives of many brothers and sisters. As a church, we love to come alongside people on their journey to marriage. Below are some frequently asked questions regarding Immanuel's involvement in weddings that will hopefully help clarify and answer some of your own questions in the planning process...

I'm getting married! How can Immanuel be involved in that process?

- Officiant
- Premarital Mentoring
- Counselor recommendations

How do I request a priest to OFFICIATE?
Submit your form via the website with your wedding date and location. Our ability to officiate is based on availability, so depending on your date/location we will let you know if either Ginny or Amy is available.

How early do I need to apply for an officiant?
You need to submit your application ***at least 4 months prior to your wedding day.***

What does it look like to have an Immanuel priest officiate?
Once your form is submitted, approved, and a priest has accepted the date, we will set up at least one meeting prior to your wedding. Meetings are to get to know the couple, have any necessary pastoral discussions, and to iron out wedding details. The priest will attend your rehearsal as well and walk everyone through the ceremony.

Do I need to be a member to have an Immanuel priest officiate?
You (at least one of you) do need to be a member in order for an Immanuel priest to officiate, or at least in the membership process. We desire to marry folks who are committed to the church and are a part of the community.

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Do I need to do premarital mentoring through Immanuel to have an Immanuel pastor officiate?
You do not need to do the Immanuel Premarital Mentoring Program. You do, however, need to do some form of premarital counseling in order to be married by an Immanuel pastor.

How much does it cost to have an Immanuel priest officiate?
A minimum honorarium of $400 is to be paid to the officiant on or before the wedding day. If the combined travel total for the rehearsal and wedding is over 50 miles, an additional travel reimbursement is requested. If the wedding is out of town, accommodations will need to be provided as well.

Are there spiritual/physical expectations or requirements in order to have an Immanuel priest officiate?
***See below*

How can I get the COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATIONS even if I don't want an Immanuel priest to officiate my wedding?
Email Ginny and she will be happy to send you our recommendations!

Can I get married at Immanuel Anglican Church (RENT THE FACILITY)?
Unfortunately, we are unable to rent the church for weddings/events at this time.

****Are there spiritual/physical expectations or requirements in order to have an Immanuel priest officiate/do Immanuel's Premarital Mentoring Program?**

At Immanuel, we believe that marriage was instituted by God as a sacramental expression of God's love and fidelity to those who worship him. Marriage makes visible God's commitment to never forsake those whom he has called. In the same way that God maintains his eternal covenant with Israel, we are invited to demonstrate lifelong fidelity through marriage (Malachi 2:14–16). In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul refers to marriage as a representation of Christ's relationship to the Church. It is described as a shared commitment between a husband and wife to be mutually submitted to one another out of love and respect (Ephesians 5:30–33). In Mark's Gospel, Jesus speaks directly to the sacred nature of marriage. When asked if it is lawful for a man to divorce his wife, Jesus responds by saying that Moses made an allowance for divorce in the case of infidelity due to humanity's "hardness of heart." He goes on to say,

From the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and "the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together let no one separate. Mark 10:2-12

Therefore, when a person commits to marry another person and invokes God's blessing on that union, the joining together of their lives relationally, sexually, and financially creates and symbolizes a spiritual bond. God is at work through this union to teach each spouse to submit to one another out of love in hopes of seeing Christ formed in the other. The love that exists between married persons, like the love that exists between Christ and the Church, must be intentionally cultivated, defended, and renewed until we are, as the wedding liturgy says, parted by death.

It is for this reason that we at Immanuel uphold the Bible's prohibition against premarital sex. By abstaining from sexual intimacy before marriage, a betrothed couple is invited to make their first sacrificial commitment to one another and the Lord. Faithful abstinence is an opportunity to say to the other, *By God's grace*, *I am committing now and for the rest of my life to honoring boundaries that challenge my individual will and autonomy for the sake of our future.*

A flourishing marriage requires a willingness to concede our appetites, desires, routines, habits, and resources for the sake of another. These concessions, whatever their nature, are costly and are often experienced as a violation of our own will and appetites. Abstinence is, therefore, a gracious invitation to begin cultivating the kind of fidelity and discipline that a flourishing marriage requires.

Another implication of the biblical teaching on marriage is the prohibition of divorce. However, we at Immanuel (and within the larger Anglican Communion) recognize abandonment, abuse, and adultery as biblically grounded means for divorce. If you are divorced and wish to be married by an Immanuel priest, we will gladly walk you through what this process might mean with the utmost respect and care for you. We ultimately get approval to marry those who were previously divorced by our Bishop, Todd Hunter, and we will walk you through what that might look like as well.