

# Marriage Process at Northview Community Church

Want someone from our team to officiate your wedding?

Northview's mission is to help people become deeply rooted followers of Jesus. It would be a joy to help you follow Jesus into the most important human relationship you are considering - a lifelong covenant of marriage.

**Before requesting a Northview Pastor to officiate your wedding, please review our marriage checklist:**

## **One: Know What We Believe About Marriage.**

*From our Statement of Faith:*

- We believe that God instituted marriage. Marriage is a sacred union between one man and one woman. Believers who marry should have a common Christian commitment; a believer should not marry an unbeliever.
  - We believe that divorce, adultery and homosexuality constitute a violation of God's intention for marriage. We do not condone same sex marriage or homosexual lifestyles. Christian parents should nurture their children through exemplary living, prayer, worship, instruction in God's Word, and godly discipline.  
(Gen. 1:27-28; 2:18-24; Prov. 5:18-19; Mal. 2:13-16; Mt. 5:31-32; 19:4-9; 1 Cor. 7:10-11; 2 Cor. 6:14; Eph. 5:22-23; 6:4; Heb. 13:4; Rom 1:18-3)
- Do you view marriage in the same way our Pastors do?
- Do our beliefs raise any questions you would be comfortable asking a Pastor?

## **Two: Know How We View Church Membership.**

- To thrive, every individual and every marriage needs to be anchored in the life of a local church. A formal commitment to the local church is what we call "membership".
  - *\*In order for a Northview Pastor to officiate your wedding at least one of you must be an official member of our church prior to the wedding (though we do hope that both of you would eventually be official members of our church family).\**
  - The stages of Northview Membership:
    - 1 - Baptism upon profession of your faith (as a believer)
    - 2 - Membership Class (hosted 3-4 times per year)
    - 3 - Membership Application
    - 4 - Membership Interview
    - 5 - Active Membership In Good Standing (see point 4 below)
- Are you willing to discuss your membership status with a Pastor?

### Three: Complete Pre-Marriage Class and/or Pre-Marital Counseling.

- To thrive, every engaged couple greatly benefits from the wisdom that comes through interacting with key conversations prior to your wedding day. A class or several counselling sessions will give you and us confidence that you've found consensus on the marriage you're aiming to build.
  - *\*In order to be married by a Northview Pastor, engaged couples must complete pre-marital counselling with an approved Pastor or counsellor. The class on its own is not required.\**
- Are you prepared to discuss participation in Pre-Marriage Class and/or Pre-Marital Counselling with a Pastor?

### Four: Know Our Approach To Caring For You.

- To thrive, every engaged couple should give careful thought to their first and most important relationship: their walk with Jesus. Our Pastors wait to commit to officiating your wedding until after they have an initial meeting with both of you. In this conversation, expect the Pastor to ask you about your relationship with Jesus and with each other. These meetings are meant to graciously listen to your story and ensure we're creating a good plan to help you pursue faithfulness to Jesus before, during, and after your wedding day.
  - We are all a work in progress and sanctification is a lifelong journey, however, if there are current sinful patterns or behaviours going on in your life that you have not been willing or able to turn away from, this is something we want to help you navigate before committing to officiate your wedding. This may include things like: substance abuse, pornography, living together, or being sexually active prior to marriage.
- Are you willing to discuss how your faith impacts your life with a Pastor?

### Five: Request A Pastor To Officiate Your Wedding.

- If you have both reviewed the checklist above and would like to move forward with a Northview Pastor, please fill out the [Wedding Officiant Request](#) as soon as possible to allow enough time to process your request before your wedding date.
  - *\*Please note that we will attempt to accommodate your request to the best of our abilities. However we cannot guarantee that a Pastor will be available on a specific date. Certain dates such as long weekends in the summer and over holiday periods (i.e. Christmas, New Years) will be particularly difficult.\**
- Are you ready to request a Pastor? **Complete the Wedding Officiant Request [HERE](#).**
- Email [care@northview.org](mailto:care@northview.org) if you have any questions. Our team would be honoured to meet you at whatever your starting point is.

The checklist above captures our intent to prioritize the health of a marriage above the help with a wedding. We are not primarily interested in simply making a ceremony happen, we want to invest in the start of a new family unit to the glory of God.