

**Wedding Policy**  
**For**  
**Fort Macleod Alliance Church**

**Preamble:**

Weddings are an exciting time for couples. As a church, FMAC desires to affirm God's designs for marriage and prepare couples to enter into a lifetime commitment to one another and to Christian Marriage. The church defines marriage as follows:

**“Marriage is ordained of God as the joining of a man and a woman in an exclusive, intimate, committed, life-long union entered into before God and community for the purpose of mutual edification, companionship, the foundation of family, procreation of children, and to bring Glory to God.”**

**As such, FMAC understands the Bible to teach the following in regards to Christian marriage:**

1. A couple must be like-minded in their spiritual goals and commitments. The church / pastor will not preside over a wedding between a Christian – one who desires to live life as a follower of Jesus Christ, and one who is not a Christian. Such a union leads to tension and compromise in the most important relationship in life, the one we have with Jesus Christ.

**“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers...” 2 Corinthians 6:14**

**“A woman....is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord.”  
1 Corinthians 7:39**

**(Also see Deuteronomy 7: 3 – 4a)**

2. As God's design for marriage is between a husband and wife, the church / pastor will only preside over heterosexual marriages between one man and one woman.  
**1 Corinthians 6: 9 – 11; Ephesians 5:3; Romans 1: 24 – 27; Leviticus 18:22**

3. Marriage is a life-long covenant and as such is a binding commitment between a husband and a wife.

**“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” Matthew 19:5; Genesis 2:24**

**“Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” Mark 10: 6 – 9.**

4. God has planned for sexual intimacy to be a good gift exclusively shared between a husband and wife. As such, the church believes that living by God's design in this area leads to the healthiest foundation for Christian marriage. Couples are discouraged from beginning or continuing with sexual relations prior to or outside of the covenant of marriage.

**“It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality.” 1 Thessalonians 4: 3**

**“Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.” Hebrews 13: 4**

**“But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.”**

**Ephesians 5: 3**

Although this is not a criteria for getting married at FMAC, if not already doing so, the church / pastor will encourage living by God’s designs in this are for the sake of a healthy, God-honoring foundation for marriage.

5. The church / pastor will only preside over a wedding where parties have been previously married when:
  - A person’s previous spouse has died. **(1 Corinthians 7: 39)**
  - One’s former spouse has entered into a sexual relationship with someone else. **(Matthew 5:32; Matthew 19:9)**
  - The former spouse, who is not a Christian, was not willing to remain in marriage to their Christian spouse. **(A Believing spouse has been deserted by an unbelieving spouse) (1 Corinthians 7: 12-13, 15)**

**Pre-wedding Agreement Between Church / Pastor & Pre-Marital Couple:**

1. Only the pastor of FMAC, or other Board approved Alliance church pastor, will preside over weddings conducted through FMAC.
2. As preparation for Christian marriage is vital, the pastor (or agreed upon designate) will conduct premarital counselling with the couple which will consist of approximately 5 sessions. Reading, or other homework, may be required between sessions.
3. The planning of the wedding service will be done in cooperation with the pastor and marrying couple. The couple is responsible for communication between various wedding participants as well as set-up and clean-up related to the wedding ceremony.
4. The couple will be encouraged to regularly attend church worship services as part of preparation for Christian marriage.
5. Should the pastor at any point feel compelled to not perform the ceremony he will communicate that to the couple, along with the reasons, as soon as reasonably possible.

Signed & Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed & Date \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor / church \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_