



*Yosemite Church*

*Wedding Ministry*

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“Yosemite Church’s is committed to establishing a strong spiritual foundation for building a happy marriage relationship, based upon the love of God through Christ Jesus our Lord”



Dear wedding couple,

*Jesus said in Matthew 19:4-6 "at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, '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.' "*

The wedding ceremony is a beautiful blessed union between a man and a woman in the presence of God and before all of the people they hold dear and cherish the most in this world.

Our goal here at Yosemite Church is to ensure that your wedding is as wonderful and memorable as you have envisioned it to be your entire life. We look forward to working with you to completely accomplish that goal. We seek to provide you both with an experience that is not only etched in your heart, but has somehow moved you toward a deeper understanding of God, the author of love, life and marriage. *1 John 4:19 "We love because he first loved us."*

Thank you for considering Yosemite Church as host for all or part of your wedding wishes.

In His holy Name,  
The staff at Yosemite Church

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# Formal Wedding Ceremony Request Form



Groom's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s)—Bride: \_\_\_\_\_ Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Wedding: \_\_\_\_\_ \*Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: \*\* YC Partner \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Partner \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding at YC?  Yes How many guests: \_\_\_\_\_

No Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Requested Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Rehearsal: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastors do not attend wedding rehearsals. A wedding coordinator is provided for wedding rehearsal.

Reception at YC?

YES\*  NO WHERE? \_\_\_\_\_

(\*Due to excessive use of our facility, receptions can not be held at our facility.)

Form Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Weddings at YC cannot be scheduled past 2 p.m. on Saturdays.

\*\*Partner—Completed YC 201 class, confirmed as a partner, and been baptized after committing your life to Christ.

**Approved by Facilitating Pastor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved by Production Pastor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Assigned counselor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wedding Coordinator assigned** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Groom's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bride's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wedding Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Yosemite Church Facility Rental Fees

A \$50 (non-refundable) deposit is required to hold a pre-approved facility rental for your event date. The deposit will be applied to the remainder of your event fees.

**Services/Facilities: Please check all appropriate boxes.**

**Fees**

- |  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Prepare/Enrich Pre-Marital Evaluation.....<br><i>(Must prepay with a check or money order made out to Prepare/Enrich)</i>  | \$35                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Premarital Counseling <b>One-on-One</b> .....<br>Counseling must be pre-approved by pastoral staff <i>(4-6 sessions)</i> <i>(Must prepay all at first session)</i>   | Partner-\$120<br>Non-Partner-\$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor's Services— <b>In town fee</b> .....<br><i>Pastor is available to meet with you after one of our weekend services to review the order of service and hear how they can support you.<br/>Call YC office—383-5038 to make arrangements.</i>  | Partner-\$200<br>Non-Partner-\$300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> **Pastor's Services— <b>Out-of-Town Fee</b> (over 30-minute drive in any direction).....<br><i>Price includes travel time and mileage. Pastor is available to meet with you after one of our weekend services to review the order of service and hear how they can support you.<br/>Call YC office—383-5038 to make arrangements.</i>                         | Partner-\$300<br>Non-Partner-\$350 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Event Coordinator— <i>A event coordinator handles all the administrative aspects of your event at YC: i.e. accounts payable, pre-marital evaluation, counseling appointments, scheduling of YC facility &amp; room use, pastor and sound personnel, event rehearsal &amp; ceremony coordination.<br/>(Pastors do not attend rehearsals).</i>                 | Partner-\$100<br>Non-Partner-\$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship Center <i>(Sound board operator, &amp; set-up included)</i><br>.....<br><i>(Sound board operator is available for service sound board operation only. Sound board operators are not responsible for selecting the music that will be played during service. You are responsible for all music selections.)</i>  | Partner-\$700<br>Non-Partner \$800 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amphitheater <i>(Sound board operator &amp; set-up included)</i><br>.....<br><i>(Sound board operator is available for service sound board operation only. Sound board operators are not responsible for selecting the music that will be played during service. You are responsible for all music selections.)</i>   | Partner-\$700<br>Non-Partner \$800 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Room 201-204 (Children's Services Room) <i>125 people or less</i> .....<br><i>(Sound board operator &amp; set-up included. Sound board operator is available for service sound board operation only. Sound board operators are not responsible for selecting the music that will be played during service. You are responsible for all music selections.)</i> | Partner-\$350<br>Non-Partner \$400 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen.....  | \$100                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Half Dome Foyer.....  | \$200                              |

***Balance of all fees is due no later than 6 weeks prior to your event date.  
Refunds (with exception to the \$50 deposit) will be made with a 24-hour cancellation notice.***

*Removal of all trash is your responsibility. If at the end of your event it is determined that the carpets need to be cleaned due to spilled food and beverages during your event, you will be held responsible for any extra cleaning expenses or damages incurred. Your group is responsible for returning the facility to its pre-use state, including cleaning of all areas utilized. (Otherwise, additional clean-up fees may be charged.)*

- \* Required for all events through Yosemite Church.
- \*\* Out of town lodging and meals not included, additional fees required to cover the pastor's expenses.

*I have read and understand my obligation to uphold to the above policies and fees.*

Groom Signature	Date	Bride Signature	Date	Event Coordinator	Date
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## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



1. Wedding couple informs the front office of their interest in getting married and either using our facilities or requesting a member of the YC pastoral staff to officiate the wedding ceremony. (**Wedding dates less than 6 months out will not be considered**).
2. The couple will then be given a **Tentative Booking Form** which must be completed, signed and turned in to the Yosemite Church office. Office will check dates, times, and facility room use requests for wedding to ensure there are no conflicts with any YC services, events or requested facilitating pastor.
3. After venue selection, officiating pastor, premarital counselor and sound board operator is assigned and approved, wedding couple will then be contacted to set up an appointment with the wedding coordinator to go over the wedding policies & procedures, and pricing . A \$50 deposit is required at this time to hold the wedding date, time, and facility . The \$50 deposit will be applied to your total fees. The balance of all wedding fees is due no later than 30 days prior to the date of wedding.
4. Wedding Coordinator will initiate process. Couples are filed chronologically by wedding date each couple will have on file a copy of **Formal Wedding Ceremony Request Form**, completed and signed, **Yosemite Church Wedding & Facility Rental form**, and **Accounting Sheet** with all fees listed, fees paid and balance due.
5. Wedding couple will be notified to come in to the front office take the Prepare/Enrich pre-marital evaluation (couples do not have to come in together). After both parties have taken evaluation, a personal check *made out to Prepare/Enrich* is required and then sent off with evaluation scores for processing . Evaluation results take about 1½ to 2 weeks to arrive back at YC after processing.
6. After receipt of pre-marital evaluation results, couple will be notified to start premarital counseling with a member of YC's pastoral staff or one of our licensed counselors. (*4-6 sessions are required to cover all aspects of evaluation topics.*) **All counseling fees are due at first session to ensure accountability.**
7. The wedding coordinator will be in touch with the wedding couple on a regular basis before the wedding to clear up any questions or concerns regarding any aspect of your wedding through Yosemite Church.
8. If wedding is held at YC, A YC certified soundboard operator is required with use of any of the sound system equipment.
9. **If wedding is held in Half Dome's Amphitheater**, chair set up & tear down is included (see price list). We have approximately 500 chairs. If you need more chairs, you must provide extra chairs through a local rental company (suggestions available upon request). Chair rental is not included in the rental fees. **If wedding ceremony is held in Half Dome's Worship Center**, indoor chairs will be available.
10. Keyboardist and any other musicians are not included in the wedding package price (you must hire your own musician and keyboardist. We will provide all sound connections). All musical instruments are under the care and supervision of the Pastor of Production and may not be used without prior consent.
11. Wedding couple makes all payments to the front office and receives a receipt for each transaction. All payments are then logged on the couple's Wedding Log accounting sheet. **Total account balances are due 6 weeks prior to wedding date.**
12. You will be required to attend one meeting session with the officiating pastor prior to your wedding. Your wedding coordinator will setup that appointment for you.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Groom's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bride's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wedding Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Facility Policies

The policy of Yosemite Church is to use church facilities to the best advantage of the church in carrying out the, values, vision, and mission of Yosemite Church. As long as policies are kept, we shall endeavor to bring as many people inside the church buildings in order to influence them, in some way, toward Christ.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Absolutely no alcohol or any form of intoxicating substance is allowed on church property. (This includes cigarette smoking)**
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Any consideration of special use of Yosemite Church must be under the guiding principle that it has been dedicated to worship, teaching the Bible, evangelism, character building, and related activities.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Absolutely no food or beverages (other than bottled water) allowed in any YC facility.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The use of decorations, the changing of furniture, attachment of materials to walls, and similar actions shall be done only with the consent and supervision of the wedding coordinator or a YC staff member. **Musical instruments may not be moved.**
5. \_\_\_\_\_ No temporary structure will be built anywhere on the premises without the consent and supervision of the wedding coordinator. This refers to such structures as platforms, structures or devices that attach to the floor, wall, or ceiling, or those that may damage coverings.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Use of any portion of the property shall conform to city fire and safety ordinances.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ The custodian or a church staff member shall supervise the moving of equipment or property items when it is necessary, **facility must be left exactly as it was found when your event is over.**
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Use of the kitchen and its equipment is available for a fee with prior arrangement with the Facility Coordinator.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ No rice, birdseed, paper pedal or confetti throwing is allowed on church property. Bubbles are permissible and recommended.
10. Each wedding is allocated two (2) hours for the following:
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (1) hour prior to the wedding ceremony the bride and her attendants will be allowed access to the bridal room for dressing and photos.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (30) minutes are allocated for the actual ceremony.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ (30) minutes after the ceremony is allocated for taking photos (inside the venue you have selected. (We ask that you take photographs with the pastor first as they have other commitments to keep. Photos may be taken on the grounds outside for as long as you wish permitting there are no out door church activities scheduled during this time.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Receiving lines are not permitted after indoor ceremonies. You will need to make arrangements to do this at your reception.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Should an unavoidable circumstance arise, Yosemite Church reserves the right to cancel this contract within 72 hours of the event.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Groom's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bride's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wedding Coordinator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## Additional Information

### Your Rehearsal

The facilitating pastor does not attend wedding rehearsals. Your wedding coordinator will be available to meet with you and your wedding party on the date of your rehearsal in the venue you have selected unless otherwise advised.

Your wedding rehearsal **must start on time** and we ask that your entire wedding party be present. This is for your benefit to ensure a smooth well planned wedding.

It is not necessary to have any musicians or soloists at the rehearsal and we ask that if you have your photographer present that they not take posed photos until after the rehearsal is over.

You will need to **bring your wedding license and any CD's** you will be using to the rehearsal and leave with the wedding coordinator.

### Bridal Room

We will have the Bridal Room open and ready for your use one hour prior to your wedding.

All personal effects **must** be removed from the Bridal Room prior to the wedding ceremony. We suggest that you appoint someone not in the wedding party to be responsible for removing everything from this room. We cannot be responsible for anything left behind.

**Absolutely no food or drinks allowed in the Bridal Room with the exception of bottled water.**

**WE STRONGLY ADVISE THAT THE ENTIRE WEDDING PARTY INCLUDING THE BRIDE EAT A LITTLE SOMETHING BEFORE THEY ARRIVE TO THE WEDDING.**

### California Marriage License Information\*

To obtain a California Marriage License, go the County Court House located at **2222 M Street. Rm. #14 Merced, CA. 209-385-7502**. For a required fee you may apply for a license of marriage.

- ◆ You must be over the age of 18
- ◆ Valid ID i.e., driver's license, birth certificate or passport
- ◆ If you are divorced, proof of dissolution of last marriage must be provided
- ◆ *Both applicants must be present* to obtain a marriage license.
- ◆ Your license will be issued at the time of your application and is effective immediately. However, it must be used within 90 days of its issuance.

There are two types of license:

**Public license \$60.00**—This is a public record and open to anyone to review, and will be published in the local newspaper.

**Confidential license \$70.00**—This record is only open to the bride and groom and is not open to the public. Wedding ceremony must be performed within the boundaries of Merced County.

(This document is required prior to your wedding or renewal of vows at Yosemite Church. You must bring your marriage license to your wedding rehearsal. Your wedding coordinator will get all the appropriate signatures required on this document.)

\*The above California Marriage License information is provided as a courtesy and is based on the most current information provided by the Merced County Court house.



## Timing Sheet

### Your Rehearsal

**Rehearsal in the sanctuary** will be scheduled the week of your wedding but can not be scheduled on the Friday evening before your wedding, (we have small groups going on). We must schedule sanctuary rehearsals on another night that does not conflict with YC activities or early Friday afternoon NLT 4 pm.

**Rehearsal in the amphitheater** will be scheduled the week of your wedding and can be held the Friday before your wedding NLT 5:30 pm.

You will be allotted (1) hour for your rehearsal. Rehearsals that either start late or run longer than one hour will be charged an addition fee of \$50 to \$100 to cover additional cost in staffing.

### Wedding Party

The bride and her wedding party may arrive (1) hour prior to the wedding. At this time the Bridal Room will be available to you.

### Florist and Photographers

Florists and photographers may arrive one hour prior to the wedding to set up. At this time, photographers may take pictures of the groom and groomsmen outside and the bride and her ladies in the dressing room as she desires.

### Wedding Ceremony

We schedule our weddings so that each and every wedding participant is made to feel special and not conflict with any other events on the campus at the same time.

**IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOUR WEDDING START PROMPTLY AT THE SCHEDULED TIME. IF IT IS UNAVOIDABLE TO BEGIN YOUR WEDDING MORE THAN THIRTY MINUTES PAST THE SCHEDULED TIME, YOU MUST KNOW THAT THIS MAY ADD ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU TO ACCOMMODATE FOR ADDED PAYROLL EXPENSES.**

Our wedding ceremonies last approximately (30) minutes. The remaining thirty minutes are for you and your wedding party to take photos inside the venue you have selected. You may take photos outside on the grounds provided there are no other scheduled events occurring.

If you would like to take photos outside any day other than your wedding day, this must be set up with the wedding coordinator, so to alert all pertinent staff that you will be on campus. We do not allow outside wedding parties to use our campus for photographs.

Our wedding coordinator will set up an additional meeting 2-3 weeks prior to your wedding to review any special wedding needs, music selections and take care of the balance due for your wedding.



## Florist Guidelines

- ◆ Flowers may arrive one hour prior to the wedding. We regret we are unable to store or refrigerate flowers.
- ◆ Runners—if you are planning on a runner, it must be put down and removed by your florist immediately after the ceremony. **All runners must be taped down pins may not be used.**

We do not allow runners for outdoor weddings as they are quite dangerous. In lieu of a runner, your florist may run an outline of the aisle in *silk* petals. This is a very nice affect. (The use of natural flower petals is prohibited, because they permanently stain floors and carpeting).

- ◆ Florists are responsible for placing all flowers in selected venues and are responsible for arranging the flowers, and if deemed responsible, removing them from the facility. Flowers are not to be left in any of the rooms or the selected venues.
- ◆ When placing flowers in any area, please make sure that any spills or mess is promptly cleaned up in order to prevent any accidents or damage to our facility.
- ◆ If you are using flower petals, they must be silk only and picked up immediately after the ceremony.
- ◆ Please label all flowers that are to be given out to the wedding party and family. Please include the name of the bride and groom, time and location of the wedding. It is advised that the florists remain to assist with the proper distribution of flowers.
- ◆ Florists are responsible for gathering all of their equipment after the wedding. We cannot be held responsible for equipment left behind.

## *Flowers and their Seasons*

<i>Flowers</i>	<i>Winter</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer</i>	<i>Fall</i>
Allium		X	X	
Alstroemeria	X	X	X	X
Amaryllis	X		X	
Anemone	X	X		X
Aster	X	X	X	X
Baby's Breath	X	X	X	X
Bachelor's Button	X	X	X	X
Billy Buttons		X	X	
Bird of Paradise	X	X	X	X
Bouvardia	X	X	X	X
Calla Lily	X	X	X	X
Carnation	X	X	X	X
Celosia		X	X	
Chrysanthemum	X	X	X	X
Daffodils		X		
Dahlia			X	X
Delphinium			X	X
Eucalyptus	X	X	X	X
Freesia	X	X	X	X
Gardenia	X	X	X	X
Gerbera	X	X	X	X
Gladiolus	X	X	X	X
Iris	X	X	X	X
Liatris		X	X	X

## *Flowers and their Seasons*

<i>Flowers</i>	<i>Winter</i>	<i>Spring</i>	<i>Summer</i>	<i>Fall</i>
Lily	X	X	X	X
Lilly of the Valley		X		
Lisianthus		X	X	
Narcissus	X	X		X
Nerine	X	X	X	X
Orchid (Cattleya & Cymbidium)	X	X	X	X
Peony		X		
Pin Cushion			X	
Protea	X			X
Queen Anne's Lace			X	
Ranunculus		X		
Rose	X	X	X	X
Saponaria			X	
Snap Dragon		X	X	X
Speedwell			X	
Star of Bethlehem	X			X
Statice	X	X	X	X
Stephanotis	X	X	X	X
Stock	X	X	X	X
Sunflower		X	X	
Sweet Pea		X		
Tuberose			X	X
Tulip	X	X		
Wax flower	X	X		



## Photography/Videography Guidelines

- ◆ The bride and wedding party will be allowed access to the facilities (Bridal Room/ Cry Room and ceremony location) one hour prior to the ceremony. The photographer may use the bride's room for taking pictures as directed by the bride.
  
- ◆ None of the furniture is to be moved without the permission of the wedding coordinator and must be put back in the proper place when you are finished taking pictures.
  
- ◆ Candles may not be lit prior to the ceremony for pictures.
  
- ◆ All lighting equipment, backdrops, etc. are the responsibility of the photographer and must be removed from all rooms and selected venues prior to the ceremony.
  
- ◆ The officiating pastor will graciously stay after your ceremony for pictures, however, we ask that these pictures be taken first as they have other commitments.
  
- ◆ After your ceremony you may take pictures at the altar and inside the venue you have selected for the remainder of your one hour time frame.
  
- ◆ In order to allow for as much time as possible, we suggest that you keep your ceremony within the normal (30) thirty minute time frame thus allowing as much time as possible for pictures inside.
  
- ◆ After the ceremony, photos may be taken outside on the grounds for as long as you wish (permitting there are no outdoor church activities scheduled during this time).



## Music & Vocalist Guidelines

- ◆ You may use your own musicians for your wedding with the exception that they use our instruments and equipment. (No musical instrument, mics or mic stands are to be moved without the approval of the sound technician).
- ◆ You may choose your own pre-recorded cd's **with the approval of the wedding coordinator**. This is God's house and He has very high standards—your choice of music must flow with YC's mission, vision, and values. Absolutely no inappropriate music will be permitted. (You are responsible for providing the sound technician with your music CD's selections the day of the rehearsal.)
- ◆ We do request that you select at least one Christian song as this is a sacred service.
- ◆ A list of appropriate God honoring music will be provided for your convenience. Any selections outside of this list must be submitted to the wedding coordinator for approval
- ◆ If you have hired musicians or vocalists, they will need to arrive (1) hour prior to your wedding ceremony to consult with the sound tech to complete sound set up and necessary sound checks.
- ◆ You will be provided with a microphone for the officiating pastor as well as a guest pastor. Microphone & sound needs will be discussed over the phone one week prior to your wedding. We will not be able to provide additional microphones the day of your wedding.



## Guest Pastor Guidelines

While we do allow guest pastors & co-officiating pastors at our wedding, there are several guidelines which must be met prior to your wedding.

- ◆ Guest pastors must be either ordained, commissioned, or licensed and recognized by the state of California. You will be asked for proof of this information.
  
- ◆ Your guest pastor **MUST** get in touch with our Senior Pastor one month prior to the wedding.
  
- ◆ While we will do everything in our power to accommodate your pastor, he or she must recognize that they must follow our direction.
  
- ◆ Your pastor needs to know that we allow thirty minutes for the ceremony and they will need to fit their part in the ceremony to accommodate this timing. There will be additional charges for weddings going over the allotted time limit to take care of our staff's additional time.



## Ushers

Please go over these responsibilities with your chosen ushers as they play a vital and significant role in your wedding. Usher assignments generate a welcoming feeling for your honored guests and adds a special elegant touch.

- ◆ You should plan on 2 ushers for every 100 guests (It is recommended that your ushers are not in the wedding party).
- ◆ Prior to seating your guest, ushers should greet the guests as they arrive and ask them to sign the guest book (if there is amply time, the guest book can be made available at the reception hall).
- ◆ If there are programs, give one program to every couple or single guest.
- ◆ Ask if they are friends of the bride or the groom:
  - Bride's guests sit to the left of the center aisle
  - Groom's guests sit to the right of the center aisle
- ◆ The ushers should take the ladies by the arm and escort them to their seats (the gentlemen with the ladies will follow behind).
- ◆ Guest seating always begins in the second row as the first row is reserved for the family unless otherwise indicated.



## **Important Notice to Brides and Grooms**

All of our paperwork is due, including music selections six weeks prior to your wedding date.

**Your final balance is due at this time as well.**

Please note: Should the above final dates not be met, there will be a late charge of \$50 per week unless arrangements have been made with the wedding coordinator.

**All final changes** in either your wedding party, music, guest count, or other considerations **MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN THE THURSDAY PRECEDING YOUR WEDDING.**

We will do everything in our power to make adjustments after this time however we will not guarantee the changes will be met and there will be an additional cost for each change which our coordinator will outline for you at the time of your request.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Groom's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bride's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Wedding Order of Service/Sample Service



1. Guests are seated by ushers. (prelude soft music)
2. After seating of guests, If candles are lit by candle lighters or two of the ushers if unity candles are going to be part of the ceremony. (CD or vocalist)
3. Grandparents and parents are ushered in and seated.
4. Pastor, groom and groomsmen enter and take their places on platform. (Groomsmen will occasionally be requested to accompany the bridesmaid they stand counter-stage to.)
5. Bridesmaids, ring bearer, flower girl and maid of honor walk in, slowly, usually to a piece of music, and take their places.
6. Bride enters, Pastor asks congregation to stand, and bride accompanied by father (or designated escort) walk down the aisle and come to a stop at the base of the platform. (The Wedding March)
7. Pastor asks "Who gives this woman to this man?" Father replies, "Her mother and I." Pastor tells groom "You may receive your bride." Groom goes to bride and stands with her at the base of the platform. The pastor asks the congregation to be seated. [Note: This is a nice place for a prayer, song or both.]
8. Pastor shares about marriage to couple and congregation. (See sample outline from Pastor Jeff.)
9. (Unique to Jeff's services) Pastor asks who received an invitation to the wedding—everyone—he asks if they saw his name on the invitation? No! Because you didn't come to see the minister but the couple, lets have them switch places with pastor so you can enjoy seeing them.

Couple comes up to platform and faces either the congregation or the pastor or each other.

10. Pastor makes comments about the vows and then proceeds to take them through their vows. (See sample vows.) They can say "I do" after the pastor reads the vow or repeat them after the pastor, phrase by phrase.
11. The pastors then asks "What tokens they bring as expressions of your vows and commitment?" Rings. Leading the woman first to place the ring on his finger and to repeat after the minister: "This ring I give you, in token and pledge, of our constant faith, and abiding love."

The couple could be pronounced husband and wife, you may kiss the bride, etc. or they can go on and do the unity candle and/or communion before the pronouncement.

12. The pastor now describes the purpose of the unity candle as a visual symbol of the two becoming one. [This is an appropriate place for another song during the lighting of the unity candle. The pastor may want to quietly pray with the couple during the song after the candle is lit.]

13. The pronouncement: "By the power vested in me by the State of California and the gospel of Jesus Christ, I now pronounce you husband and wife. You may kiss your bride."

To the congregation: "I present to you, Mr. & Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_."



## Sample Outline

### I. Marriage is Made in Heaven

(God's idea and ideal "become one.") Genesis 2:18-25, refer to or read from.

### II. Marriage is Managed on Earth

(Our struggle to be one, share about this reality of struggles. Three kinds of people at weddings: Skeptics, Romantics and Realists. We need a realistic view of marriage for it to be successful. That view is contained in a four-letter work.... WORK!)

### III. Marriage is Maintained on Faith

(We need to see one another as God sees us. Develop further concepts on communication, compassion, confession, and cooperation.)

## Sample Vows (feel free to write you own vows)

The Repeat Vow:

I \_\_\_\_\_ (Man), choose you, \_\_\_\_\_ (Woman), to be my wife (husband), my friend, my love, the mother (father) of our children. I will be yours in plenty and in want, in sickness and in health, in failure and in triumph. I will honor you and respect you, comfort and encourage you, and together we shall live, freed and bound by our love, under God's care, grace and protection.

The "I do" vow a little more traditional::

Do you, \_\_\_\_\_, take this woman (man) to be your lawful wedded wife (husband), to love and respect her (him), honor and cherish her/him, in health and in sickness, in prosperity and in adversity; and leaving all others to keep yourself only unto her/him, so long as you both shall live? [I do.]

Do you \_\_\_\_\_, in like manner, solemnly agree to receive this man as your lawful....  
(See above).



## Local Vendor Suggestions

### Florists

Tioga Florist—759 W 18<sup>th</sup> St. • Merced & Atwater • (209) 722-6295  
Yosemite Floral—3562 G St. • Merced • (209) 722-7444  
Gene the Florist—328 W Main St. • Merced • (209) 722-5758  
A Blooming Affair—463 W. Main St. • Merced, 95340 • (209) 723-9456  
Sherwood Florist—268 E. Bellevue Rd. • Atwater • (209) 358-5201  
Aloha Floral—1253 Winton Way • Merced & Atwater • (209) 722-6295

### Photographers

Jay Sousa Photography—501 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St. • Merced • (209) 383-1294  
David Brantley—[www.davidbrantleyphotography.com](http://www.davidbrantleyphotography.com) • Merced • (209) 383-1756  
Gardner Studio—1742 Canal St. • Merced • (209) 722-5295  
Say Cheese! Photography—838 W. 19<sup>th</sup> St. • Merced • (209) 384-3601

### DJ's

D.K.P. Mobile DJ (multicultural)—[www.dkpmobiledjentertainment.com](http://www.dkpmobiledjentertainment.com) • (209) 410-2214  
Biggler Sound & Performance—[www.cencalevents.com](http://www.cencalevents.com) • (209) 722-2692  
Entertainment 2000—[www.entertainment2000bravehost.net](http://www.entertainment2000bravehost.net) • (209) 384-1200

### Dove Release

White Doves—[www.whitedovesofmodesto.com](http://www.whitedovesofmodesto.com) • (209) 521-6961

### Rentals (chairs-columns-arches etc.)

Party Seasons—80 W. Olive Ave. Save Mart Shopping Center • Merced • (209) 388-0262  
Broadway Parties—1320 Broadway • Atwater • (209) 357-2789  
Party Land Floral & Rental—2698 First St. • Atwater • (209) 357-2789

### Tuxedos

After Hours Formalwear—Merced Mall • [www.afterhoursformalwear.com](http://www.afterhoursformalwear.com) • (209) 722-3388