



Wedding Ministry Protocol

To All Members Of The Holgate Church of Christ

In order to clarify procedures and improve the coordination of the Wedding Ministry, the following guidelines have been developed and approved by the Elders and Minister. The Holgate Church of Christ encourages marriage and upholds the sanctity of marriage as a holy ceremony between a woman and a man Genesis 2:22-25, Matthew 19:4-5, Eph. 5:22-33. The Minister of the local congregation is more than a justice of the peace who will perform weddings for just about anyone, member or non-member, Christian or unchurched. Thus some policies have been put in place to maintain a clear and defined philosophy about the performance of weddings at Holgate Church of Christ.

Part 1: Initial Communication

1. When someone desires to unite in Holy Matrimony at the Holgate Church of Christ the first contact should be the church office 206-324-5530. The purpose for this is to indicate a date and to make sure that the date desired is available on the Church Master Calendar. If there is a conflict with another church activity another date should be selected.
2. Immediately afterwards the Wedding Ministry Coordinator (*Toni Washington McDaniel*) Evangelism and Church Growth Ministry Department Head (*James A. Maxwell*) should be contacted with available dates.
3. If the Minister of the Church is asked to conduct the wedding, he should be notified of the selected date to make sure that he is available to conduct the wedding on the day selected.

Part 2: Understanding The Terms For Marriage At Holgate Church of Christ

1. To prevent confusion and to maintain consistency, only two Christians (*Members of the Church of Christ*) may be married at a ceremony promoted by the Holgate Church of Christ. The basis for this policy is founded upon a scriptural premise II Corinthians 6:14 *“Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?”*
2. Only Ministers of the Church of Christ may conduct marriage ceremonies for couples at a Holgate Church of Christ ceremony. If a minister of the Church of

Christ other than the local minister is selected to conduct a wedding service, the local minister should be informed as soon as possible and the visiting minister should be given a copy of Holgates Protocol.

3. For expediency purposes the Elders and Minister have agreed that only Acapella Music be played in during wedding ceremonies and official services conducted and promoted by Holgate Church of Christ. This will allow the church to maintain its uniqueness in an ever-confusing world of religion. Should the wedding party not have any Acapella recordings, the church has an ample supply of professionally recorded contemporary Acapella music. Appropriate pre-recorded music instrumental or acapella may be played during repasses in the fellowship Hall of the church for the wedding party and guests. A set list must be approved By Minister/Wedding Coordinator or Audio Technician before any instrumental music is played. No dancing is permitted and no alcoholic beverages whatsoever are permitted on the premises of Holgate Church of Christ.
4. In cases where there is a Christian (*Member of the Church of Christ*) wishing to be married to a non-Christian, the church encourages the non-Christian to consider a Bible Study conducted by the Minister in addition to pre-marital counseling. This is an opportunity for evangelism to take place. In the case where a fiancé does not choose to accept Christ after a Bible study, counseling may continue but a marriage will not be conducted by the minister(s) of Holgate Church of Christ of a Christian to non-Christian; The couple should feel free to make other plans.

BUILDING USAGE

5. A cost **\$100.00** per floor will be required for using the Kitchen & Fellowship Hall for receptions and classrooms and facilities. This fee is assessed due to the expenses in preparing and restoring the facilities and to retain a building attendant for the duration of the event. However, members are to contact the Church Secretary for availability of facilities. If the building will be used for the wedding reception. Neither dances nor alcoholic beverages will be allowed at receptions conducted at the Church Building. **\$200.00** per floor will be required for Non-members for the above usage.
6. If audiovisual equipment and adjustable lighting is needed, the Church will put the wedding party in contact with someone familiar with the audiovisual equipment at Holgate. A fee of **\$25.00** per hour will be required for the services of Audio Technicians. No one should attempt to adjust, change or use the equipment of Holgate CoC who is not been trained to use the equipment

Respectfully,
The Minister & Elders
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