



Restoration Wedding Guide

Congratulations! We are excited that you interested in getting married at Restoration. It is our hope that before you enter into marriage, you will each make a serious commitment to follow Jesus Christ and invite Him to be a part of your life together as husband and wife.

To live consciously in the presence of God, and to call on Him daily for His wisdom and love, is the greatest way to build a healthy and strong relationship with one another.

GETTING MARRIED AT RESTORATION

In the doctrinal statement of Restoration Anglican Church, *"We acknowledge God's creation of humankind as male and female and the unchangeable standard of Christian marriage between one man and one woman as the proper place for sexual intimacy and the basis of the family."*

In order to get married at Restoration, either the bride or the groom must be an active member of the church. Both the bride and the groom must be baptized Christians.

If either the bride or the groom has been previously married and divorced, the bishop of our Diocese must approve the remarriage. (This process takes longer, so please contact a Restoration clergy member as soon as possible.)

All weddings at Restoration must be approved by, and are at the sole discretion of, the Rector.

THE FIRST STEP

The first step in getting married at Restoration is to meet with Nathan Dickerson, who oversees our pre-marriage program. The purpose of this meeting is to get to know you individually and as a couple and to assess your readiness for entering the pre-marriage program.

PRE-MARRIAGE PREPARATION

We hope to be able to mentor all couples seeking marriage at Restoration. Mentoring prepares you for a lifelong commitment to each other before God. The mentoring process can be most helpful if begun early in your engagement and it should be completed no less than 60 days prior to the anticipated wedding date. Therefore, please make plans to begin the mentoring process as early as possible.

Marriage Preparation at Restoration Includes:

- One initial meeting with the Nathan Dickerson (see above)
- 4-6 meetings with pre-marriage mentors
- 1-2 sessions with a family systems therapist
- 1-2 meetings with the Restoration wedding coordinator
- 1 meeting with the clergy member officiating your wedding
- 1-2 meetings with mentors in year following wedding

There is a small fee for the pre-marriage assessment (\$35). The cost of the sessions with the family systems therapist is also the responsibility of the couple (but please let us know if you need help covering these costs).

WEDDING COORDINATOR TEAM

The Wedding Team is a group of volunteers from Restoration who are committed to making your wedding run as smoothly as possible.

A member of the Wedding Team will be assigned as your coordinator to help you plan the logistics of your ceremony and will be present for the rehearsal and wedding day to assist the clergy and to facilitate your preferences.

Typically, you will have one or two meetings (conversations) with your assigned wedding coordinator: three months before your wedding and then again one month before your wedding. Your wedding coordinator will be available throughout your wedding planning to answer your questions and concerns. He or she will assist you in completing the wedding planner document to address your ceremony preferences.

THE WEDDING CEREMONY

Ceremony Guidelines

- The clergy person is in charge of the wedding and the wedding rehearsal and makes the final decisions in consultation with the couple. Clergy from Restoration always preside at weddings at Restoration. With approval from the Rector, clergy from outside our parish are welcome to assist.
- All aspects of the wedding are to conform to the Book of Common Prayer and its rubrics. A short homily will be given.
- Normally, the Eucharist is part of an Anglican wedding service. You're welcome to discuss this with your officiant.

Music

- There are many opportunities for music in an Anglican wedding service. Because music sets the tone and assists us in worship, all music choices are subject to the discretion of the officiant.
- If you would like suggestions of local musicians, we have put together a list of local musicians, which includes their estimated fees.
- *Note - The bride/groom will be responsible for contacting/hiring the musicians & paying their fees.*

Flowers and Decorations

- Restoration requests that the wedding party be responsible for all flowers and decorations, but that these plans be approved by the wedding coordinator before arrangements are made with a florist.
- Personal flowers (bouquets, boutonnieres, guest book arrangements) are the responsibility of the bride and groom. The wedding coordinator must approve anything to be thrown as the couple departs.

Art Work & Seasonal Decorations

- Any special decorations (other than flowers) should be indicated to the Wedding Coordinator and notifications sent to Nathan Dickerson or Kat Downs.
- *Note:* If a wedding is taking place during Advent, Lent or Pentecost there may be artwork in place in the Sanctuary. Couples should be aware that it may not be possible to remove this artwork for their ceremony.

Photographers and Videographers

- All professional photographers and videographers must remain in the rear of the church during the ceremony. Further photography guidelines will be given to the couple by the wedding team coordinator. Photography during the service is limited. The wedding team member will review the guidelines with the photographer/ videographer prior to the ceremony.
- Pictures may be taken freely after the ceremony in the church for up to 30 minutes. Pictures may also be taken up to one hour prior to the ceremony in the church.

Babysitting

- Church facilities are not available for babysitting during the ceremony. For those wishing to provide babysitting services for their guests, please make arrangements off site.

Receptions at Restoration

- You are welcome to have your reception at Restoration immediately following your ceremony.
- Coordination with a caterer of the couple's choosing is handled by the couple.
- Once a caterer is selected, the caterer must set up a site meeting with Kat Downs. At that meeting, the caterer will receive an overview of the kitchen on site. Please note that cooking may not be done on site, the kitchen is for warming food only.
- Most supplies will need to be brought in by the caterer, with the exception of tables and chairs.
- The set up and tear down of the Fellowship Hall will be handled by the wedding party, or a designee of their choosing, before and after the reception.
- We have 12 (6') round tables and 96 folding metal chairs.

Other Church Policies

- We typically do not have weddings during Lent, or in the week prior to or after Christmas.
- Weddings at Restoration are normally held on Saturdays between 11am and 7pm. Rehearsals are scheduled for the day before the wedding, Friday at 5:30pm. Allow 90 minutes for the rehearsal.
- Smoking is not permitted in the church building.
- Rooms will be provided for the bride and her attendants and the groom and his attendants. There will be one room available for locking away any valuables.

Other Information You Should Know

To obtain a license to be married in Virginia, the couple must go to the courthouse of the county of which one member of the couple is a resident. There is a fee and it must be paid in cash. Both members of the couple must be at least 18 years old and have appropriate verification of age.

- No blood tests or witnesses are required.
- The license is good for 60 days and valid immediately.
- No proof of divorce or widowhood is required.
- Out-of-state applicants can go to any courthouse in Virginia.

The couple must bring the marriage license & all honoraria to the rehearsal and give them to the wedding coordinator. The wedding coordinator will ensure that the license is signed on the wedding day, and we will mail the signed license to Arlington County.

COSTS

- Facility Usage Fee:
 - \$300 for Sanctuary (*cleaning fee*)
 - \$100 for Fellowship Hall* (**this only applies if you choose to use Fellowship Hall*)
- Shuttle (*required*):
 - Pricing varies seasonally between \$350-\$650.
 - *Please contact Kat Downs at kat@restorationarlington.org for a quote and to book the shuttle.*
- Audio Visual: \$250
 - *Note: Once you select a date, we will book an AV contractor to handle your wedding.*
- Honorarium for Wedding Coordinator: \$100.
- Honorarium for Clergy: \$400-\$500.
- Honorarium for Musicians: \$350 (Solo); \$700 (Duet); \$2000 (String Quartet) **Note - these are estimated costs*