



Restoration Wedding Guide

Congratulations! We are excited that you're 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 the center 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 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 Liaison
- 1 meeting with the clergy member officiating your wedding
- 1-2 meetings with mentors in the year following your wedding

There is a small fee (\$35) for the pre-marriage assessment. 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 LIAISON

The Wedding Liaison Team is a group of volunteers from Restoration who enjoy coming alongside our clergy and engaged couples to help weddings run as smoothly as possible.

A member of this team will be assigned as your Wedding Liaison. Typically, you will have one or two meetings (conversations) with your assigned Wedding Liaison: three months before your wedding and then again one month before your wedding. He or she will assist you in completing the Wedding Details Document to confirm the specific details of your ceremony.

We find it's helpful to make a distinction between the duties of Restoration's Wedding Liaison and those of a Day-of Wedding Coordinator.

- Our **Wedding Liaison** is a volunteer responsible for assisting our clergy in gathering the details for your wedding ceremony and serves as the church facilities coordinator for your rehearsal and wedding day. This person is an additional Restoration point of contact for you who can address planning questions and concerns in the months leading up to your wedding. On your wedding day, this person is typically available to you 2 hours prior to the start of your ceremony.
- A **Day-of Wedding Coordinator** is hired independently by you to keep your wedding day events on schedule. This person oversees the logistics of your ceremony and reception, including set-up and tear-down, ensures all details are covered, and can manage unexpected issues on your behalf. This person is available to you for the entirety of your wedding day.

Your Wedding Liaison is not intended to replace a Day-of Wedding Coordinator, should you need one.

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 that includes their estimated fees.
- *Note: The bride/groom will be responsible for contacting/hiring the musicians and 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 Liaison before arrangements are made with a florist.
- Personal flowers (bouquets, boutonnieres, guest book arrangements) are the responsibility of the bride and groom. The Wedding Liaison must approve anything to be thrown as the couple departs.

Artwork and Seasonal Decorations

- Any special decorations (other than flowers) should be indicated to the Wedding Liaison and notifications sent to Becky Turco. Neither adhesives nor nails may be used.
- *Note: As part of our worship and especially during special seasons in the church calendar, there may be artwork/decor in place in the Sanctuary. Couples should be aware that it may not be possible to remove this for their ceremony.*

Photographers and Videographers

- Weddings are worship services. For that reason, photography/videography during the service is limited. We ask that professional photographers and videographers be as

discreet as possible when shooting/filming during the service, staying off to the side and not entering the chancel.

- 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. Indoor receptions in our Fellowship Hall must be set up and taken down by the wedding party or a designee of your choosing. Outdoor receptions must conclude by 10:00 pm. If you choose to use a tent for your reception, it must be broken down and removed from our property by 10:00 pm. If your wedding is on Friday, your tent must be broken down and removed by 6:00 pm on Saturday; if there are church-sponsored events taking place on Saturday, you may be required to remove the tent earlier.
- 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 Becky Turco. 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; we have 12 (6') round tables and 100 folding chairs that you may use. Utilizing our round tables and chairs for a seated meal, the Fellowship Hall comfortably fits 65 guests but could accommodate more depending upon your set-up and reception service needs.

Other Church Policies

- We do not have weddings during Lent, Advent, or the week 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 and all checks (see pricing info below) to the rehearsal and give them to the Wedding Liaison. The Wedding Liaison will ensure that the license is signed on the wedding day, and we will mail the signed license to Arlington County.

COSTS

Restoration Fees:

Please make one check out to "Restoration Anglican Church" for the following costs.

- **Facility Usage Fee:**
 - \$300 for Sanctuary (cleaning fee)
 - \$100 for Fellowship Hall (if applicable)
- **Shuttle (required):**
 - Base rate of \$550 for a minimum of 4 hours of service; \$105 for each additional hour of service. Pricing may vary seasonally.
 - Becky Turco will reserve the shuttle on your wedding day for the minimum 4 hours of service. If you would like to use the shuttle for a longer period of time and/or as transportation to an off-site reception location, she can request a quote for you.
- **Audio Visual: \$300**
 - Once you select a date, we will book an A/V contractor to handle your wedding.

Other Honoraria:

Please make individual checks out to the people providing the following services. Give your check directly to the payee.

- Honorarium for Wedding Liaison: \$250
- Honorarium for Clergy: \$400-\$500
- Honorarium for Musicians: \$500 (Lead Guitarist or Pianist); \$350 (Soloist); \$700 (Duet); \$2,000 (String Quartet)

- Please note, these are estimated costs for your general planning purposes. Contact musicians directly to confirm the fee for their services.