

# Effingham Presbyterian Church

*Associate Reformed Synod*

## **Commitment to a Christian Marriage**

First, congratulations on your upcoming marriage. The family unit is the foundational institution of human society. The ties between a husband and wife are strong as they mirror the union between Christ and the church.

When arranging to celebrate your big day here at Effingham ARP, your wedding ceremony is considered a public service of worship. Regardless of whether your ceremony is led by our pastor, you will be asked to keep the service within the guidelines of the ARP Directory of Public Worship.

Before the church can make arrangements, we ask that the Bride and Groom affirm the following:

- In order to offer God our best in marriage, you are both affirming that the wedding ceremony is considered to be a Service of Worship, and that your choice of music, readings, and other elements will be an appropriate reflection of the *Associate Reformed Presbyterian Book of Worship*. Your choice of officiant shall also be in keeping with the guidelines of our *ARP Form of Government*.
- In this marriage, you are both affirming that you have personally trusted in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, you have received a Trinitarian baptism, and you have made a confession of your faith before a local church body. If you have any doubts or questions about a relationship with Christ, our pastor or one of our Elders will be happy to discuss this with you.
- In this marriage, you are affirming the covenant commitment to each other for a lifetime. Breaking this promise to each other means you are also breaking your promise to God.
- In this marriage, you affirm that you will model the way in which God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church, sacrificing everything for her. A wife is to submit herself graciously to her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ.
- In order to help the marriage start well, you both commit to pre-marital counseling with our pastor or someone approved by the Session.

- In order to keep the sanctity of marriage complete, you affirm that you are not currently nor will participate in sexual immorality with each other or someone else. If you have been sexually active with each other, you commit from this point forward to repent of this sin, and to refrain from sexual activity and living together until you are married.
- In order to keep the marriage biblical, you are both affirming that neither of you have been previously divorced, with the exception of a few limited cases. If needed, our pastor will be happy to discuss with you the biblical details of these exceptions.

We will be praying for you. The gift of marriage is an amazing blessing from our Lord. It is an incredible joy for which we should be eternally grateful to God. Please sign the attached sheet and return it to the pastor or a member of the session for consideration.

Requested Date for Wedding \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Groom-to-be)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Bride-to-be)

## **Sanctuary Rental / Use Guidelines\***

1. The Sanctuary is to be used for the purpose of ministering to the spiritual needs of our church members and community. All members and guests are advised that smoking, alcoholic beverages, gambling in any form, the use of drugs, improper language, and unauthorized entrance into offices or private spaces are prohibited. Shoes and shirts are to be worn at all times.
2. Please note that confetti, rice, flower petals (other than silk) are prohibited. Nothing may be nailed to the pulpit furniture, pews, walls, or trim. The Pulpit Furniture may be temporarily moved and should be returned after the event.
3. In regard to weddings, funerals, and other public services of worship, music, multimedia, and song choices must be approved by the EPC Session or Pastor and should be in keeping with worship standards of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian church.
4. Adult supervision is required for those under the age of 18.
5. The sound/multimedia system should not be used under any circumstances without prior training and/or the presence of those authorized to use the system. Arrangements should be made at least 6 weeks in advance.
6. Members or guests may make reservations for using the Sanctuary by contacting A Member of the EPC Session. If a church group wants to use it on a regular basis, arrangements can be made to have that time reserved monthly and weekly. Such arrangements are subject to change as needed due to ministry events sponsored by Effingham Presbyterian Church.
7. There will be no charge for EPC church groups to use the Sanctuary for church meetings. There will be no charge for individual members of EPC to use the Sanctuary for weddings or funerals.
8. Regarding other uses, there will be a \$50.00 charge for church members (other than weddings and funerals) and a \$500.00 charge for non-members (all uses, including weddings and funerals). They will also be expected to cover the cost of any major cleaning necessary because of the event.
9. When finished with the Sanctuary, the group or member will be responsible for cleaning. A Cleaning protocol is as follows:
  1. Vacuuming main area and sweeping vestibule.
  2. Emptying restroom and main area trash cans. Dispose in outside container.
  3. Replacing all furniture, staging, electronics, plants, etc.
  4. Removing leftover food from the kitchen and/or other rooms. Dispose in outside container.
  5. Turning off lights, HVAC, and locking building.
10. Fire extinguishers are placed throughout the building. A First Aid Kit is located in the kitchen. To accept incoming calls, dial 73#.

### **Family Life Center Rental / Use Guidelines**

1. The Family Life Center is to be used for the purpose of ministering to the social and spiritual needs of our church members and community. All members and guests are advised that smoking, alcoholic beverages, gambling in any form, the use of drugs, improper language, and unauthorized entrance or presence in any church building are prohibited. Shoes and shirts are to be worn at all times.
2. Adult supervision is required for those under the age of 18.
3. The sound system should not be used under any circumstances without prior training. Training arrangements should be made at least 1 week in advance.
4. Members or guests may make reservations for using the Family Life Center by contacting: A Member of the EPC Session. If a church group wants to use it on a regular basis, arrangements can be made to have that time reserved monthly and weekly. Such arrangements are subject to change as needed due to ministry events sponsored by Effingham Presbyterian Church.
5. There will be no charge for EPC church groups to use the Family Life Center for church meetings.
6. Regarding other uses, there will be a \$50.00 charge for church members and a \$100.00 charge for non-members. They will also be expected to cover the cost of any major cleaning necessary because of the event.
7. When finished with the Family Life Center, the group or member will be responsible for cleaning. A Cleaning protocol is as follows:
  1. Sweeping main area and kitchen
  2. Emptying restroom and main area trash cans. Dispose in outside container.
  3. Replacing all furniture, staging, electronics, basketball goals, divider walls, etc.
  4. Removing leftover food from the kitchen. Dispose in outside container.
  5. Washing and drying utensils, plates, pots, etc.
  6. Wiping down countertops, tables, and chairs.
  7. Turning off lights, HVAC, and locking building.
8. Any church group may use the paper products in the kitchen. Other groups must supply their own. Please do not use items from the church Parlor/Kitchen unless previously arranged.
9. Fire extinguishers are placed throughout the Family Life Center. A First Aid Kit is located in the kitchen. To accept incoming calls, dial 73#.

## **Legal Notice**

\*All those using the facilities of Effingham Presbyterian Church (ARP) and the equipment contained therein agree to indemnify and hold harmless Effingham Presbyterian Church (ARP), its employees, agents, officers and representatives from any and all claims, suits actions, proceeds, loss, costs, and damages of every kind, including (but not limited to) reasonable attorney's fees and litigation expenses, which may be brought or incurred by Effingham Presbyterian Church (ARP) on account of loss or damage to any property of or injuries to or death of any person(s), caused by, arising out of, or contributed to, by reasons of any act, employees, agents, representatives, with or out without incident to their agreement, or arising out of Worker's compensation claims, except as required by law.