



ABOUT YOUR MARRIAGE

FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE PARISH

There are many people who choose Aspen for a destination wedding. We are pleased that you would like to be married in Aspen and we will do everything we can to help you. The celebration of your marriage is a unique moment in your life, and preparation for it is important. Please read the following materials carefully and if you have any questions, call the Rev. Bruce McNab, Rector of Christ Church, at 925-5156 (rectory) or 309-0403 (cell) or you may email him at cbmcnab@comcast.net.

Because of the large number of persons who want to be married here, the Rector limits himself to presiding at weddings only for couples at least one of whom is a member of the Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church specifies that there be at least 30 days notice given to the priest before he may officiate at any marriage. Therefore, it is important for you to make an appointment with Fr. McNab (or other clergy designated by him) immediately so that he may meet you and plan for pre-marital counseling with you and your future spouse. Church Law requires that the clergy see both of you personally and provide pre-marital instruction before giving permission for a marriage to be solemnized in the church. In situations where the couple to be married are living someplace other than Aspen, they should receive their pre-marital instruction from a priest in that area. Fr. McNab will be glad to make an initial contact on your behalf if you will furnish him with the name of the nearest Episcopal Church and its rector. Prior to the wedding, Fr. McNab must receive a letter from the priest who conducted the pre-marital counseling certifying that the counseling has been completed and that the priest who did the counseling recommends that the couple be married.

Persons who have been previously married and divorced should bring a copy of their final divorce decree to the first meeting with the priest. The Episcopal Church accepts the civil process for dissolution of marriage, but the consent of the Bishop must be obtained before re-marriage in the church.

When the marriage is celebrated at a place other than the church, such as on Aspen Mountain or at a lodge or private home, the rite is without the Holy Eucharist. When the marriage is celebrated in the church, the rite may include the Holy Eucharist if both bride and groom have been baptized.

IF THE MARRIAGE RITE IS TO BE CELEBRATED SOMEWHERE OTHER THAN THE CHURCH

Ordinarily a professional event planner handles arrangements for weddings held outside the church. Sometimes such weddings are held outdoors in the summer, or in a hotel, lodge, or private home. The event planner should be in communication with Fr. McNab at least one month prior to the wedding in order to discuss the details of the setting for the marriage rite. Ordinarily there is provision of a place for the priest to put on his vestments and of a place for the bride and groom and their witnesses to sign the parochial marriage register and the marriage license.

IF THE MARRIAGE RITE IS TO BE CELEBRATED IN CHRIST CHURCH ITSELF

Christ Church will seat 100 persons in pews and another 100, maximum, in chairs in Rowland-Davis Hall, where there is a large CCTV projection of the church. The chancel area is too confined for a wedding party that would include more than three bridesmaids and three groomsmen.

The bride and groom are responsible for the cost of altar flowers for their wedding. The Flower Committee will work with the couple in planning floral arrangements. Please call the church office, 925-3278, to obtain the phone number of the Flower Committee person with whom you will coordinate. If you prefer to work with a florist, the Flower Committee will need to know the florist whom you have chosen so arrangements can be made for the pick-up of altar vases and time of flower delivery. It is customary for the altar flowers to remain for the Sunday following the wedding, if the wedding is on a Saturday. It is not our policy to use artificial flowers or greenery unless members of the wedding party or congregation are allergic to real flowers.

Marriages are wonderful celebrations, but marriage is also a solemn, sacramental rite of the Church. A reverent, worshipful atmosphere should be maintained at all times in the church, and especially during and prior to the actual ceremony.

Candles to be lighted are those on the altar and, if desired, the church's aisle candelabra. If you wish to use the aisle candelabra, you will be expected to pay for the candles used. The Altar Guild will need to order these in advance of your wedding. A unity candle may be used, under the direction of the officiating priest. A unity candle is never placed on the altar, but rather on a table nearby. If you wish to use a unity candle, you are responsible for acquiring the candle and the candleholder.

The bride and groom may designate one official photographer who is permitted to take pictures during the ceremony. No one else should be taking pictures. Except for a shot of the bridal couple as they start up the aisle, there should be no pictures using flash or strobe taken in the church by the official photographer (or by anyone else) until after the marriage is over and the newlyweds are going down the aisle to leave the church. A

video camera may be used if the location is unobtrusive and approved by the Rector. Following the service, the clergy will be happy to cooperate with photographers for whatever posed pictures are desired.

Rice, birdseed, or confetti may not be thrown within the building or on the church grounds.

The marriage license should be presented to the priest at least two days prior to the rehearsal so that it might be properly filled in. The church provides its own handsome Certificate of Marriage to every couple, in addition to the marriage license. The official records of the marriage will be signed immediately following the ceremony.

FEES

For non-parishioners, there is a \$600 fee for use of the church (which includes custodial services), plus another \$150 if there is a reception in the church garden. Fr. McNab's standard fee for his services is \$350. Arrangements must be made for the payment of fees prior to the wedding ceremony.

By policy, the church music director / organist, Dr. Andrew Palmer Todd (970-948-6517), plays for all weddings and is present at rehearsals. The fee for Dr. Todd's services is negotiated with him and depends on the amount of music, number of soloists involved, number of rehearsals, *etc.* The music director's fee is payable at the time of the wedding. All music arrangements are made through the church music director.

*May God bless you in the days and weeks ahead, and may He guide
you into a life-long Christian marriage filled with His presence!*

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN ASPEN

536 West North Street + Aspen CO 81611-1253
970.925.3278

www.christchurchaspen.org
The Rev. Bruce McNab, Rector



PLANNING YOUR MARRIAGE SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH

*Please complete this form and return it at the initial interview or at the first pre-marital counseling session.
Christ Church will do all that we can to help make this a special day for you.
If you have any questions, please call Fr. Bruce McNab at 309-0403.*

Bride's full (maiden) name: _____
Date of birth _____

If you prefer to be addressed by other than your proper name, please state: _____

Address: _____

Telephone (home): _____ (work): _____

Email: _____

Have you been married before? Yes No

What is your religious (or denominational) background? _____

Have you been baptized? Yes No

Name of parents (even if deceased): _____

Will they be present at the ceremony? Yes No

Groom's full name: _____
Date of birth _____

If you prefer to be addressed by other than your proper name, please state: _____

Address _____

Telephone (home) _____ (work) _____

Email: _____

Have you been married before? Yes No

What is your religious (or denominational) background? _____

Have you been baptized? Yes No

Name of parents (even if deceased): _____

Will they be present at the ceremony? Yes No

THE CEREMONY

Wedding date: _____ Time: _____

Rehearsal date: _____ Time: _____

Location of service: Christ Church Other: _____

Maid/Matron of Honor (*name*) _____

Best Man (*name*) _____

Number of other bridesmaids _____

Number of other groomsmen _____

Ringbearer, flower girl(s), etc. (*details*) _____

Which of the following do you wish to include in the ceremony? (*please check*)

- Presentation or giving in marriage. (*This is where the father of the bride or other family member "presents" the bride to be married.*)
- Holy Communion at the service. (*Only when the wedding is held in the church. Both bride and groom must be baptized.*)
- Unity Candle. (*This is purchased and provided by the bride and groom.*)

Which readings from Scripture do you wish to use? Refer to texts printed on materials provided (*please check*).

Check one Old Testament Reading:

- Genesis 1.26-28 Song of Solomon 2.10-13; 8.6-7
- Genesis 2.4-9, 15-24 Tobit 8.5b-8

Check one Epistle:

- 1 Corinthians 13.1-13 Colossians 3.12-17
- Ephesians 3.14-19 1 John 4.7-16
- Ephesians 5.1-2, 21-33

Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said. Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128

Check one Gospel Reading:

- Matthew 5.1-10 Mark 10.6-9, 13-16
- Matthew 5.13-16 John 15.9-12
- Matthew 7.21, 24-29

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

FOR USE AT THE CELEBRATION AND BLESSING OF A MARRIAGE

NOTE: One or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. If there is to be a Eucharist at the wedding, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings. If the marriage rite is celebrated without the Eucharist, there may be one, two or three readings. If only a single reading is planned, it should be from one of the Gospel selections.

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1:26-28 (Male and female he created them)

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24 (A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh)

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken." Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7 (Many waters cannot quench love)

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be utterly scorned.

Tobit 8:5b-8 (That she and I may grow old together)

So she got up, and they began to pray and implore that they might be kept safe. Tobias began by saying,
"Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors,
and blessed is your name in all generations forever.
Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever.
You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve
as a helper and support.
From the two of them the human race has sprung.
You said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone;
let us make a helper for him like himself.'
I now am taking this kinswoman of mine,
not because of lust,
but with sincerity.
Grant that she and I may find mercy
and that we may grow old together."
And they both said, "Amen, Amen."

NEW TESTAMENT / EPISTLES

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind)

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every family is named)

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)

Be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church, the body of which he is the Savior. Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body.

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Colossians 3:12-17 (Love which binds everything together in harmony)

As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 John 4:7-16 (Let us love one another for love is of God)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for

our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said. Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.

GOSPELS

Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light . . . Let your light so shine)

13 “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. 15 No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock)

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Mark 10:6-9, 13-16 (They are no longer two but one)

From the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

John 15:9-12 (Love one another as I have loved you)

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

Usual order of service for a Marriage without Eucharist

This is the order followed when the Marriage is celebrated outside the church.

(★Indicates where music may be used.)

★Pre-service music

★Bridal Procession (may be accompanied by hymn or by organ/instruments only)

Celebrant's Address to the Congregation, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 423

The Declaration of Consent, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 424

Presentation in Marriage (this is where the Father of the Bride "presents" her)

★Hymn or other music

Collect (prayer), *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 425

Reading(s) from Scripture:

One, two, or three of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. If there is only a single reading, it should be from the Gospels.

Genesis 1:26-28 (Male and female he created them)

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24 (A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh)

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7 (Many waters cannot quench love)

Tobit 8:5b-8 (*New English Bible*) (That she and I may grow old together)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind)

Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every family is named)

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)

Colossians 3:12-17 (Love which binds everything together in harmony)

1 John 4:7-16 (Let us love one another for love is of God)

★*Note: Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said. Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.*

Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)

Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light . . . Let your light so shine)

Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock)

Mark 10:6-9, 13-16 (They are no longer two but one)

John 15:9-12 (Love one another as I have loved you)

Homily (a short sermon by the Celebrant)

★Hymn or special music

The Marriage, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 427

Blessing and exchange of rings, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 427

★(If a Unity Candle is used, it is lighted at this point, usually during special music.)

The Lord's Prayer, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 428

Prayers for the Bridal Couple, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 429

The Final Prayer and Nuptial Blessing, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 430-1

★Procession out

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to provide a service leaflet or program for the ceremony. The church office can offer some samples suitable for imitation. In preparing a printed leaflet for the service, references to the page numbers in the Book of Common Prayer may be given as *B.C.P.*, p. ____, or simply, p. _____. If only page numbers are given, there should be a line at the beginning of the order of service which says "Page references are to the Book of Common Prayer, which is to be found in the pew racks."

Usual order of service for a Marriage with Eucharist

Marriage with a Holy Eucharist is celebrated only in the Church.

(★Indicates where music may be used)

★Pre-service music

★Bridal Procession (may be accompanied by hymn or by organ/instruments only)

Celebrant's Address to the Congregation, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 423

The Declaration of Consent, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 424

Presentation in Marriage (this is where the Father of the Bride "presents" her)

★Hymn or other music

Collect (prayer), *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 425

Reading(s) from Scripture:

One or two of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read, usually one from the O.T. and one from the N.T.

Genesis 1:26-28 (Male and female he created them)

Genesis 2:4-9, 15-24 (A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh)

Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7 (Many waters cannot quench love)

Tobit 8:5b-8 (*New English Bible*) (That she and I may grow old together)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind)

Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every family is named)

Ephesians 5:1-2, 21-33 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)

Colossians 3:12-17 (Love which binds everything together in harmony)

1 John 4:7-16 (Let us love one another for love is of God)

★*Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said. Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.*

Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)

Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light . . . Let your light so shine)

Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock)

Mark 10:6-9, 13-16 (They are no longer two but one)

John 15:9-12 (Love one another as I have loved you)

Homily (*short sermon by the Celebrant*)

★Hymn or special music

The Marriage, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 427

Blessing and exchange of rings, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 427

★(If a Unity Candle is used, it is lighted at this point, usually during special music.)

Prayers for the Bridal Couple, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 429

★Offertory Music (may be a hymn, a solo, or instrumental music)

Great Thanksgiving, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 361

The Lord's Prayer, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 428

Distribution of Holy Communion

★Music During Communion (may be hymn, solo, or instrumental music)

Post-communion Prayer, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 432

The Final Prayer and Nuptial Blessing, *Book of Common Prayer*, p. 430-1

★Procession out

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the bride and groom to provide a service leaflet or program for the ceremony. The church office can offer some samples suitable for imitation. In preparing a printed leaflet for the service, references to the page numbers in the Book of Common Prayer may be given as *B.C.P.*, p. ____, or simply, p. _____. If only page numbers are given, there should be a line at the beginning of the order of service which says "*Page references are to the Book of Common Prayer, which is to be found in the pew racks.*"

CANONS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

relating to Holy Matrimony

CANON 18: OF THE SOLEMNIZATION OF HOLY MATRIMONY

Legal and canonical requirements.

Sec. 1. Every Member of the Clergy of this Church shall conform to the laws of the State governing the creation of the civil status of marriage, and also to the laws of this Church governing the solemnization of Holy Matrimony.

Conditions.

Sec. 2. Before solemnizing a marriage the Member of the Clergy shall have ascertained:

Laws of State.

a. That both parties have the right to contract a marriage according to the laws of the State.

Understanding of nature of Holy Matrimony.

b. That both parties understand that Holy Matrimony is a physical and spiritual union of a man and a woman, entered into within the community of faith, by mutual consent of heart, mind, and will, and with intent that it be lifelong.

Free consent.

c. That both parties freely and knowingly consent to such marriage, without fraud, coercion, mistake as to identity of a partner, or mental reservation.

One party baptized.

d. That at least one of the parties has received Holy Baptism.

Instruction.

e. That both parties have been instructed as to the nature, meaning, and purpose of Holy Matrimony by the Member of the Clergy, or that they have both received such instruction from persons known by the Member of the Clergy to be competent and responsible.

Procedures

.Sec. 3. No Member of the Clergy of this Church shall solemnize any marriage unless the following procedures are complied with:

Thirty days' notice.

a. The intention of the parties to contract marriage shall have been signified to the Member of the Clergy at least thirty days before the service of solemnization; Provided, that for weighty cause, this requirement may be dispensed with if one of the parties is a member of the Congregation of the Member of the Clergy, or can furnish satisfactory evidence of responsibility.

In case the thirty days' notice is waived, the Member of the Clergy shall report such action in writing to the Bishop immediately.

Witnesses.

b. There shall be present at least two witnesses to the solemnization of marriage.

Recorded in Register.

c. The Member of the Clergy shall record in the proper register the date and place of the marriage, the names of the parties and their parents, the age of the parties, their residences, and their Church status; the witnesses and the Member of the Clergy shall sign the record.

Declaration of Intention.

d. The Member of the Clergy shall have required that the parties sign the following declaration:

e. "WE, *A.B.* AND *C.D.*, DESIRING TO RECEIVE THE BLESSING OF HOLY MATRIMONY IN THE CHURCH, DO SOLEMNLY DECLARE THAT WE HOLD MARRIAGE TO BE A LIFELONG UNION OF HUSBAND AND WIFE AS IT IS SET FORTH IN THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

f. "WE BELIEVE THAT THE UNION OF HUSBAND AND WIFE, IN HEART, BODY, AND MIND, IS INTENDED BY GOD FOR THEIR MUTUAL JOY; FOR THE HELP AND COMFORT GIVEN ONE ANOTHER IN PROSPERITY AND ADVERSITY; AND, WHEN IT IS GOD'S WILL, FOR THE PROCREATION OF CHILDREN AND THEIR NURTURE IN THE KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF THE LORD.

g. "AND WE DO ENGAGE OURSELVES, SO FAR AS IN US LIES, TO MAKE OUR UTMOST EFFORT TO ESTABLISH THIS RELATIONSHIP AND TO SEEK GOD'S HELP THERETO."

Members of the Clergy may decline to officiate

Sec. 4. It shall be within the discretion of any Member of the Clergy of this Church to decline to solemnize any marriage.

Declaration of Intention to Marry

We,

and

desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

We believe that the union of husband and wife, in heart, body, and mind, is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto.

{As required by the Canons of the Episcopal Church, Title I, Canon 18, Sec. 3, d,e,f,g.}

Groom _____

Bride _____

Priest _____

Date _____

Date of marriage _____

This document must be signed at least 30 days prior to the wedding.