



14701 US Highway 27 North ~ Marshall, MI 49068
269-781-9094 ~ 269-781-3611 fax ~ www.ccmonline.org
Scott and Clare Loughrige, Lead Pastors

We welcome the opportunity to invest in this commitment and your upcoming marriage. It is our desire as a church to equip couples for a marriage that will be a life-long commitment and covenant before God. In order to do that we have set up some specific guidelines, please read the enclosed information very carefully.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

»WHAT ARE THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS TO BE MARRIED AT CROSSROADS CHURCH AND MINISTRIES OR BY A CCM PASTOR?

All marriages held at Crossroads Church are officiated by one of our Crossroads pastors. The bride and groom will meet with the pastors performing the ceremony (this may or may not be Pastor Scott or Pastor Clare) to discuss wedding plans and details of the questionnaires. Crossroads Church will reserve the right to refuse to officiate a ceremony at the pastor's discretion. In addition, the pastoral staff of Crossroads has determined the following qualifications, based on Biblical truths:

- 1) Bride and groom must individually confess a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.** CCM will not marry unbelievers, or join an unbeliever to a believer in marriage (*2 Corinthians 6:14-18*). God's Word is clear about spiritual compatibility between marriage partners.
- 2) Bride and groom must abstain from physical intimacy or living together.** Sex is a gift from God. He is the one who created it! Therefore, we must follow God's directions alone regarding our sexuality. The Bible gives us clear instructions for sex within the parameters of the marriage relationship (*2 Corinthians 6:3*) God's Word also gives us clear warnings and consequences when sex is used outside of the marriage.

While many of those who come to Crossroads Church and Ministries are honoring God through abstaining from sexual intimacy, there are many that do not fall into this category. Couples who are physically intimate or are living together are asked to move apart and covenant with CCM to abstain from their sexual relationship until their wedding day. We would like the opportunity to encourage you to make this commitment with us, understanding that this is God's best for your marriage relationship. A copy of that covenant is attached.

3) Either the bride or groom is required to be a partner in good standing at Crossroads Church and Ministries. Either the bride or the groom is required to have completed Experience Crossroads and be set in as a partner of CCM. Further, to be a partner in good standing, the bride or groom must tithe and be actively involved in a ministry of Crossroads Church and Ministries.

4) Bride and groom must complete the recommended pre-marital curriculum. The book, *Saving Your Marriage Before it Starts*, and the accompanying workbooks for the bride and groom will take 6-8 weeks to complete. After completion, a meeting with the officiating pastors will be set up to help with areas of conflict and areas of strength that surfaced during the readings. Our pastors are also available for help anytime during the pre-marital process.

Total cost for the curriculum is approximately \$35. They are available in our Word of Life Bookstore. This cost is the responsibility of the couple and covers the book and individual workbooks. Some subjects include marital roles and responsibilities; skills for communicating and resolving conflicts; realistic management of finances; your sexual relationship; your family of origin; and much more!

5) Weddings must be schedule a minimum of 6 months prior to the wedding date. The deadline for turning in your forms is 6 months before your wedding.

»HOW DO I BEGIN THE PROCESS?

Complete and turn in the enclosed forms to the church office as soon as possible to begin the process. Once these are turned in you will be contacted by our Service Coordinator. She will inform you of the facility availability, how to obtain the required books, and when you will meet with the officiating pastors.

»WHAT IS THE TYPICAL TIMELINE?

6-12 months prior	Bride/Groom contact the church office and forms are sent to Bride/Groom
6 months prior	Forms are returned to the church office
2-4 weeks later	Confirmation call to Bride/Groom
2-3 months prior	1 st meeting with officiating pastors
8 weeks prior	Ceremony template sent to Bride/Groom
6 weeks prior	Meet with Service Coordinator to discuss the ceremony, technical information, fees, etc.
1 month prior	Final meeting with officiating pastors – required books should be completed by this time
2 weeks prior	Final meeting with Service Coordinator to finalize ceremony plans. Fees are collected at this time

»WHEN WILL WE KNOW IF WE CAN HAVE OUR WEDDING AT CCM?

Once you have completed the forms and returned them we will process your request and call you to confirm the date. Please note, the processing of your forms could take 2-3 weeks. It is recommended that you complete the forms and return them to the office as quickly as possible.

»WHAT DOES IT COST?

We will answer specific questions about our available facilities and the associated costs once you have returned the completed forms. Prices for the facility and related costs will range from \$400 to \$600 (facility fees are waived for tithing partners). Specific costs are listed below.

Fees

Facility Fee \$450*

Cleaning \$50

Sound/Lighting \$100

Videography \$200

Service Coordinator \$100 (includes 2 meetings, rehearsal and ceremony)

Clergy Fee \$200 (includes 2 meetings, rehearsal and ceremony)

*Waived for tithing partners

»WHAT IF WE WANT TO GET MARRIED OFF CAMPUS?

Our pastoral staff is available for weddings not held at CCM. You do, however, have to complete the process, including the forms, as required. The Service Coordinator and Clergy Fees will still apply. Videography and sound equipment are not available for ceremonies not held at CCM.

»WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call the church office at 269-781-9094. We'll be happy to discuss all the details with you.

May God richly bless you individually, and as a couple, as you embark on this exciting journey together!

***"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one. Therefore, what God has joined together, let no man separate."
Mark 10:7-9 (NIV)***