

# Wedding Guide



Love

*Love is patient, love is kind.*

*It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.*

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# Biblical Marriage

Maple Grove Evangelical Free Church believes that God created marriage to be between one man and one woman for life.

Our Pastoral staff is happy to discuss your plans and goals for your marriage. If MGEFC is your church home\* and you would like to get married here, we are delighted to serve you. If you are not a regular attender or member of MGEFC we would encourage you to consider becoming part of our friendly family of believers, as it is our desire that you would make MGEFC your church home prior to, and after your ceremony is performed here.

MGEFC will only perform weddings between two committed believers. We are not able to serve couples who do not plan to make MGEFC their home church.

\**Church home* is defined by MGEFC as a couple who has regularly attended (at least 3 weekends per month) MGEFC for at least 6 months prior to your requested wedding date. This is indicated through Share Cards that should be filled out each time you attend on Sunday and turned into the offering baskets so that we can accurately track your attendance prior to your wedding.

## PRE-MARRIAGE

MGEFC requires premarital counseling. MGEFC desires to provide you with the emotional and spiritual direction you need for a lifelong spiritual commitment, therefore you must begin this process with our MGEFC pastors six months before your desired wedding date. We also have a premarital counseling couple who will meet with you 3-6 months prior to your wedding. Any counseling prior to that needs to be arranged with the Pastor.

# Wedding Process

## WEDDING CHECKLIST

Please use this as a checklist to ensure all steps are followed:

Pick up or download from our website the Bride and Groom's Background Information Forms. If, after careful consideration, you can both agree to the "Prerequisites for Weddings" and the "Wedding Policies at MGEFC," please fill out, sign and return the Background Information Forms back to the church office.

After your Background Information Forms have been received, we will put a **temporary hold** on your proposed wedding and rehearsal dates.

The MGEFC Wedding Administrator will contact you to set up an initial meeting with one of our pastors to determine your spiritual and emotional readiness.

*\*If using an outside pastor, ask the Wedding Administrator for the Pastor Approval Form.*

After approval, the \$250 non-refundable deposit should be given to MGEFC (8585 Rice Lake Road, MG, MN 55369) to the attention of the Wedding Administrator.

Our Wedding Coordinator will meet with you to go over your wedding plans, please bring all plans and information to this meeting. You will meet again 3 weeks before your wedding day to confirm details, please have final plans in mind at this meeting.

Pre-Marital Counseling is required and will include:

- Initial meeting with an MGEFC pastor
- Meetings with MGEFC premarital counselors
- Prepare/Enrich Inventory and ORA Personality Profiler

*\*If you choose counseling done by an outside source, MGEFC requires written proof from the counselor of the course by name, number of sessions and testing completed – to be submitted no later than 2 weeks prior to wedding date.*

# Fee Schedules

All onsite wedding fees cover assistance in the following areas:

- Building usage
- Premarital counseling test & sessions
- Sound/light, equipment rental and technicians
- Custodial services (set-up and tear-down)
- Officiating Pastor's honorarium fee
- Wedding Coordinator

## MEMBERS/REGULAR ATTENDERS [TOTAL = \$1200]

If you and/or your family call MGEFC your church home.

## NON-MEMBERS [TOTAL = \$1500]

\*Non-Members need to provide their own officiating pastor and take their premarital counseling courses through their home church in order to use MGEFC's facility.

## NON-REFUNDABLE & SECURITY DEPOSITS

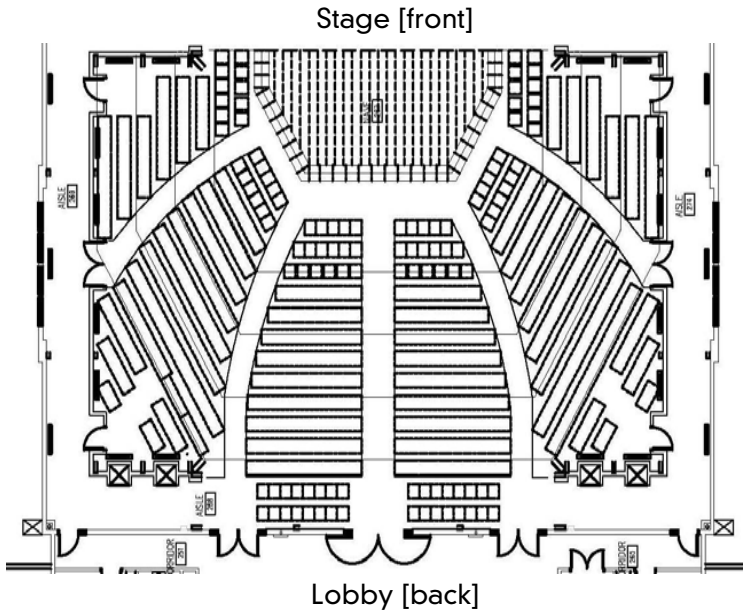
Every wedding performed at MGEFC requires a \$250 non-refundable deposit (applicable to your overall total) which guarantees that your wedding date is held on our calendar. The security deposit of \$500 covers any damages which may occur on your wedding day by members of your wedding party, guests or vendors. If no damages occur, your check will be returned to you.

## ADDITIONAL SERVICES & FEES

- If you are planning on using premarital counseling outside of MGEFC, \$550 will be subtracted from your overall total.
- If you would like to have an offsite wedding using just an MGEFC officiating pastor the total will be \$550, which only covers premarital counseling. MGEFC Wedding Coordinators are not provided for offsite weddings.
- Worship Center banner/drapery removal = \$475
- Vow Renewals = \$350

# Facility Maps

## MGEFC WORSHIP CENTER



## DECOR

The Wedding Coordinator can provide you with a list of items MGEFC has to offer for your use and those items not allowed to be used in the building. This policy is not meant to be restrictive, but rather to preserve the beauty of the facility for future use.

- ALL candles must have hurricanes around them, including candles used in the aisles or on the Worship Center platform.
- If you are bringing in a candelabra on the Worship Center platform, you must have something underneath it on the floor (saran wrap or a piece of fabric), or use battery operated or mechanical candles.
- Decorations such as pew bows or flowers may only be attached to pew ends using specific clips designed to fit MGEFC pews. Please discuss your plans with your Wedding Coordinator.
- Fresh flower petals can not be used along the aisle of the Worship Center even if you are using an aisle runner. Only fake, silk flowers may be used.
- If using an aisle runner, we suggest that it be 75' in length so that it can adequately reach from the Worship Center platform beyond the Worship Center doors. Please use cloth or pelon type runner, NOT plastic. Aisle cloths are not provided by MGEFC.

Please note: Worship Center banners and draperies seasonally change. MGEFC does not guarantee the décor that will be in the Worship Center at the time of your wedding. If you are interested in having changes made, there will be an additional fee. This must be organized with your Wedding Coordinator. ALL seasonal décor (Christmas and Easter) MUST remain in place – no exceptions for removal during these two seasonal times.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

To prevent distractions during your ceremony, the photographer may take pictures from behind the seated guests or from the sides of the pews. The photographer may actively be shooting during the processional and recessional but discrete during the ceremony. No flash photography is permitted during the ceremony at any time.

In warmer months, we suggest taking advantage of MGEFC's beautiful natural surroundings by taking some of your photos on our church grounds. We are located just in front of a beautiful walking path, baseball field, small pond, and Rice Lake.

We request that all formal pictures be completed 45 minutes prior to the ceremony. This allows sufficient time to lay the aisle cloth, if used, place flowers and light candles in time to open the doors to guest 20 minutes prior to the wedding.

## SOUND/LIGHTING

A sound/light technician will be assigned to your wedding to provide a basic setup and run the sound and lights during your wedding. They will be present at your rehearsal to run sound checks, so if your musicians or vocalists will not be present at the rehearsal, please make sure they arrive at least 1 hour prior to the wedding for sound checks (musical practices must take place at another time). No rehearsals will be scheduled within one hour prior to the ceremony.

## VIDEO RECORDING

Video recording is permitted, although MGEFC does not provide a technician or equipment. Your videographer should use discretion in the location of equipment and people during the ceremony. Videographers are not allowed to be physically present on the platform or to walk around with video cameras during the ceremony. They must be stationary cameras.

# Ceremony Planning

Your Wedding Coordinator will determine with you what time you will need to arrive at the church on your wedding day.

## The Wedding Coordinator's wedding day duties will include:

- Guide the wedding party to their dressing rooms
- Orient the photographer to the areas and rooms
- Assist the florist if needed
- Assist the wedding party with any last minute details
- Line up the grandparents, parents and wedding party to ensure a timely start
- Provide guidelines for your receiving line and will line up the participants, if desired

It is the wedding party or family's responsibility to clear all personal and/or rented items from the church building. You may want to appoint one or two people to assist in removing and transporting items from the facility.

## After the ceremony, please remember to do the following:

We recommend having a host couple who will be responsible for:

- Double-checking dressing rooms, bathrooms and Worship Center
- Collecting and removing all personal decorations, papers, flowers, food items, serving pieces, linens, music, etc. from the building
- Rented equipment may not be left in the building overnight

## **BRIDAL PARTY FOOD TABLE**

We suggest providing a light lunch for the wedding party to be eaten after photos and before the ceremony begins to avoid light-headedness or fainting. All foods and beverages must stay in the designated room. Please remind your wedding party, family and especially children.

MGEFC will provide a classroom with tables and chairs for you to setup and eat food in, but does not provide tablecloths, refrigeration, food, beverages or silverware.

Suggested food choices include:

- Prepared meat and cheese trays/ fruit and veggie trays
- Small sandwiches on buns (no mustard)
- Dry finger foods (carrots, grapes, granola bars)
- Clear beverages to avoid spills and stains (especially bottled water)



### Ephesians 5:21—33 (NIV)

<sup>21</sup>Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup>to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup>and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup>In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- <sup>30</sup>for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." <sup>32</sup>This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup>However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

### 1 Corinthians 13: 4—13 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup>Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. <sup>5</sup>It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. <sup>6</sup>Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup>It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. <sup>8</sup>Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part and we prophesy in part, <sup>10</sup>but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. <sup>12</sup>Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. <sup>13</sup>And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

# Directions

Maple Grove Evangelical Free Church  
8585 Rice Lake Road  
Maple Grove, MN 55369  
Phone: 763.420.6485  
Fax: 763.494.8708  
Website: [www.mgefco.org](http://www.mgefco.org)

## DRIVING DIRECTIONS

### ***From South:***

694 & 494 turn into 94W  
Take Weaver Lake Road exit  
Turn right on Weaver Lake Road  
Turn left onto Elm Creek Blvd (2nd stoplight)  
Turn left onto Maple Knoll Way (1 stoplight)  
Turn right onto Rice Lake Road (at stop sign)  
Church located 1/4 mile on left

### ***From Northwest:***

Take 94 E  
To Maple Grove Parkway  
Turn right on Maple Grove Parkway to Upland Ave N Turn right on Upland to stoplight at County Rd 30  
Turn left on to County Rd 30  
Turn right onto Rice Lake Road (1st right after going over the creek)  
MGEFC will be the 2nd church on the right

## TRAVEL

Traffic on I94 may be heavy between 4-5pm (especially on Friday afternoons in the summer). Please remind all family members and those in the wedding party to allow additional time to ensure staying on schedule for photos, rehearsal and your ceremony.



# Change of Name & Address

Please fill out and return the following information in order for us to update our church database with your information now that you are married. Please fill out the following information for BOTH of you (cell phone numbers, email addresses and ages). Thanks!

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (both): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phones (both): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Age (both): \_\_\_\_\_

Children (names and birthdates): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Notes



*Photo courtesy of deBruyn Designs*