

Weddings

Officiant Only Application



OFFICIANT POLICY

This application is for couples who wish to be married at a location other than the Johnson Ferry campus but would like a Johnson Ferry (JF) pastor to officiate their ceremony. Our ministers, if available, are happy to officiate weddings for JF members, regular attendees, or their immediate family members. Exceptions may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Congratulations on your engagement. We see it as a privilege to walk with you during this significant season of life. These guidelines are designed to help ensure your ceremony aligns with our shared faith and reflects the beauty of God's design for marriage.

General Requirements at Johnson Ferry

Johnson Ferry is committed to a Biblical standard for marriage and Gospel picture that marriage represents. To ensure your ceremony reflects these convictions, please review the following requirements:

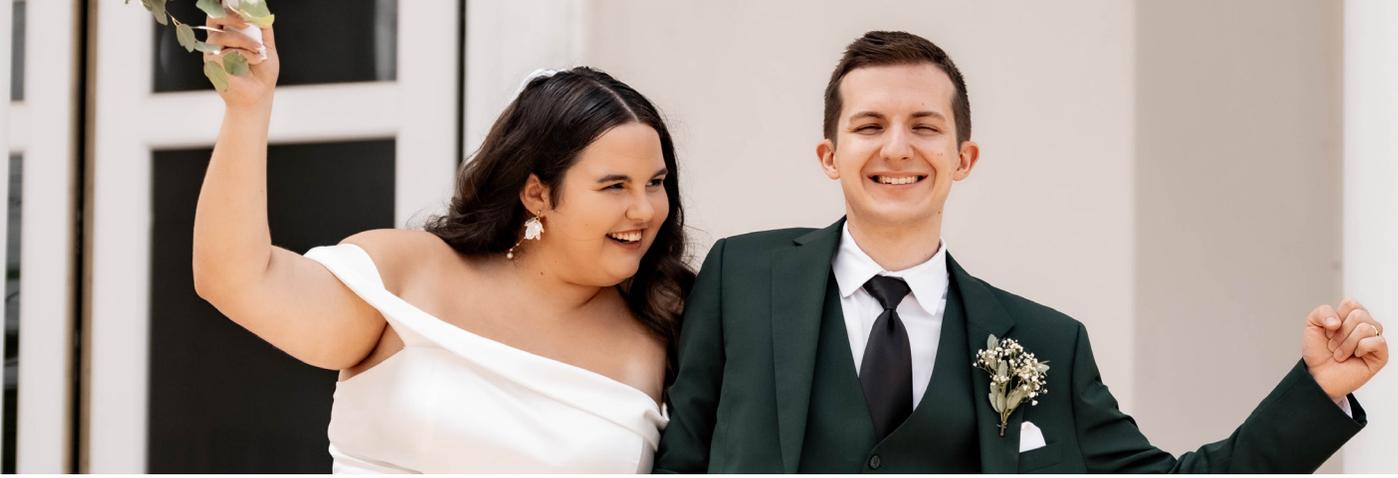
1. Weddings at JF or by JF pastors off campus must be between two professing Christians, one biological man and one biological woman, as designed by God and as described in Scripture.
2. We ask that couples follow the Biblical model of abstinence during their engagement. We understand that this may present challenges to some couples who reside together, but we align with the Gospel picture of commitment, trust, and unity that sex represents within marriage and ask couples to practice abstinence during this season prior to their holy union before Christ.
3. JF wants to prepare you for a healthy marriage. We require that you participate in 6-8 hours of Christian premarital counseling that is approved by JF. This may be conducted by a JF pastor or another counselor recommended or approved by our pastoral staff.

Request for Minister

The end of this application provides an opportunity to list preferred JF ministers. If no preference, list 'no preference.' Listing a particular name does not guarantee selection, and will be subject to minister availability.

Pre-marital Counseling

If you choose JF pre-marital counseling, often the officiating pastor will facilitate your counseling, but this is not always the case. Please plan on scheduling in-person sessions. If one or both of the partners live out of state, online meetings may be considered.



Honorarium

It is a true joy for our pastors to share in your wedding day and to celebrate this sacred moment with you. While they gladly serve in this way, it is customary to offer an honorarium as a gesture of appreciation for the extra time and care they invest in preparing for and officiating your ceremony.

Because most weddings take place on a pastor's day off and often require time away from family, the honorarium acknowledges that commitment and sacrifice. For weddings in the Atlanta area, an appropriate amount is typically \$250-\$400. For weddings outside the Atlanta area, please also consider travel expenses and the additional time involved, and adjust the honorarium accordingly. The honorarium should be paid directly to the officiating pastor.

Rehearsal/Rehearsal Dinner

Attendance at an off-campus rehearsal, especially those outside the Atlanta area, should be discussed with your officiating pastor. In many cases, it is sufficient for the pastor to coordinate with your wedding director by phone or before the ceremony.

Marriage License

Please note: state law requires that the marriage license be signed and returned promptly after the ceremony. If you would like the officiant to mail it, please provide a stamped, addressed envelope. Instructions are provided when you obtain the license at the courthouse.

Cohabitation

Scripture invites followers of Christ to approach marriage with intentionality, purity, and trust in God's design - even when that looks different from what our culture often encourages. We recognize that living together before marriage is common in today's world. While living separately is not a requirement for JF to participate in your wedding, we do ask couples to commit to sexual abstinence as they prepare for marriage. We also encourage couples to prayerfully consider living apart during this season as a meaningful way to honor God, grow in trust, and set apart the transition into covenant marriage. Living separately is also a testimony to your neighbors. Our desire is not to be prescriptive, but to invite couples into thoughtful reflection and conversation about what it looks like to follow Christ together as you prepare for your wedding day and beyond. Our pastors are always available to discuss this topic with you and walk alongside you with honesty and grace.

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(1 of 3)

Bride

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Church Affiliation _____ Member? _____

Groom

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Cell Phone _____

Church Affiliation _____ Member? _____

If not a current attendee of JF, please list your JF connection:

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(2 of 3)

Wedding Info

Ceremony Date _____ Time _____

Location _____

Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Requested JF Minister _____
(or list no preference)

We would like to receive our pre-marital counseling through JF. Yes No

If no, please list who will be leading your counseling.

Available Counseling Times

Mon - Fri (9am—5pm) Wed pm Sunday am Other _____

JF Members: Yes No

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(3 of 3)

Each initial
blanks by #(s)

- _____ _____ 1. JF Weddings must be between two professing Christians, one biological man and one biological woman, as described in Scripture.
- _____ _____ 2. Some couples approach JF for their wedding while they share the same residence. As an expression of their commitment to Christ and their witness to those that do not know Christ, we expect both Christian believers to be relating to each other in sexual purity during their engagement, regardless of living situation.
- _____ _____ 3. In addition to meeting with a JF appointed staff member, participation in Marriage Preparation Counseling is required.

By initialing and signing, we agree to all the terms in these pages.

Bride Signature

Groom Signature

We will confirm receipt of your signed officiant application by email.
Your officiating pastor will reach out within two weeks of JF's receipt of application.

Submit completed application to **weddings@jfbc.org**.