

**FIRST MISSIONARY CHURCH  
POLICY STATEMENT  
ON  
MARRIAGE – DIVORCE – REMARRIAGE**

We celebrate marriage as God's institution. We subscribe to the Biblical ideal of one woman, born female, and one man, born male, for life. We admit that we are all sinful human beings who do not always live out God's ideal. While abuse, separation and divorce are not God's intention they do occur in our world. It is within the tension between ideal and real that we outline these goals. (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18-24)

1. God's Word clearly states that Christians are not to marry non-Christians; therefore, we will only unite those who give reasonable evidence of being born-again with someone who makes the same commitment (2 Corinthians 6:14). Furthermore, because we value the sacredness of marriage, the pastors will marry only those couples who are members of the Missionary Church. Exceptions may be made by application to the First Missionary Church Board of Elders only by couples whom the pastors know well and can vouch for their Christian commitment, and who agree with the Missionary Church articles of Faith and Practice.

2. It is our desire that God be honored in every marriage and because of the high-risk of teenage marriages in our culture, we are reluctant to marry persons below age 18. Since God's Word commands children to honor and obey their parents and not forsake their counsel, we will not marry a couple unless the parents on both sides are in full harmony with their marriage. Exceptions may be made after cautious and extended counsel. (Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 30:17; 6:20; 23:22)

3. Since it is God's intention that every marriage be "as long as we both shall live" we will not remarry a believer as long as his wife or her husband is alive and unmarried unless the marriage was dissolved due to adultery. Otherwise, it will be our intention to reconcile the marriage. (1 Corinthians 7:10-11)

4. A Christian married to an unbeliever may not divorce his or her mate as long as the unbeliever wants to keep the marriage together. Separation may be a necessary alternative in cases of abuse or neglect, and the church will seek to bring healing and correction to shattered lives. If, however, the unbelieving partner leaves and dissolves the marriage after a reasonable effort at reconciliation, we will remarry the believer whose partner has left. (1 Corinthians 7:12-15; Romans 7:1-3).

5. The Bible does not speak to the issue of people who are divorced before they become Christians. It will be our intention to reconcile such marriages. If, however, reconciliation is not possible, we will remarry the divorced Christian.

6. We will not marry Christians involved in pre-marital sexual activity or living together until the sin has been confessed and abstained from for a period as outlined by the Pastor. This time period is not punishment, but is rather intended to verify that true love and commitment exists without sex being the basis for relationship.

7. All couples anticipating marriage must attend pre-marital counseling as prescribed by the pastors. Couples should also be considerate in setting a date for the wedding after consulting with the pastor in order to assure that he will be able to officiate on the desired date.

8. Anyone interested in being married by one of the pastors should fill out a personal questionnaire form very early on in the process, so that adequate planning can take place.

**PERSONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – BRIDE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

If living out of the area:  Currently away at college  Live out of the area

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

1. Give a brief (2-3 sentence) testimony about your personal acceptance of Jesus as your Savior and your relationship to Him now.

2. Date of your conversion to Christ: \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is your affiliation with First Missionary Church?

- Member
- Regular Attender
- Other (I attend a different church.)

Please list church name and location: \_\_\_\_\_

4. How long have you been attending First Missionary Church? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you willing to participate in pre-marriage counseling?  Yes  No

6. Pastor desired to conduct the ceremony: \_\_\_\_\_

7. When did you first meet your fiancé/fiancée? \_\_\_\_\_

When did you begin dating? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Date of engagement: \_\_\_\_\_ Approximate wedding date: \_\_\_\_\_

Location for wedding ceremony:  First Missionary Church  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Time preference for wedding \_\_\_\_ Morning \_\_\_\_ Afternoon

Do you wish to have a reception at First Missionary Church?  Yes  No  Not sure yet

9. Does your family support your decision?  Yes  No

May we contact your parents?  Yes  No Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Marital Status:

- Never Married
- Widowed - How long have you been widowed? \_\_\_\_\_
- Divorced - Date of divorce: \_\_\_\_\_

Years of Previous Marriage: From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Reason(s) for Divorce: \_\_\_\_\_

Status of Former Spouse: A.  Re-married  Not married B.  Christian  Non-Christian

Are children involved?  Yes  No If so, please give ages: \_\_\_\_\_

With whom do they live? \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL QUESTIONNAIRE – GROOM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

If living out of the area:  Currently away at college  Live out of the area

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

1. Give a brief (2-3 sentence) testimony about your personal acceptance of Jesus as your Savior and your relationship to Him now.

2. Date of your conversion to Christ: \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is your affiliation with First Missionary Church?

- Member
- Regular Attender
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