

What else do I need to know about weddings at Enon?

You will receive more specific information once your wedding date has been confirmed, but here are a few important things to remember as you are beginning to plan for your special day. We call them:

The Ten Commandments of Church Weddings

- 1. Thou shalt remember to seek the blessings of God for this union.*
When you decide to get married, remember that you are proclaiming, before God, that this is the person whom God has given to you for the rest of your life. You are also asking the counselors and ministers involved to affirm your union. We take this responsibility seriously, and will lovingly advise you when we have concerns about your relationship. Remember, it is better to lose a sum of money by cancelling a service than lose your peace of mind by entering into covenant unwisely.
- 2. Thou shalt have consultation with the Wedding Counselor before the marriage.*
Every couple is assigned a wedding counselor (not coordinator) who will guide you through our process here at Enon. It is critical that you contact her early and often to avoid misunderstandings and unnecessary delays and stress.

*"... Submitting yourselves to one another
in the fear of God." - Ephesians 5:21*



- 3. Thou shalt remember that the Church is God's House.*
Please remember that a wedding is a worship service. Members of the bridal party, as well as guests, are expected to conduct themselves accordingly—giving proper respect and reverence to God's House. If you are unsure of what is appropriate, please ask. Also, please inform your guests that if they arrive late, they will not be permitted to enter the floor of the main sanctuary, but will be seated in the balcony.

- 4. Thou shalt be respectful in attire.*
Selections for bridal party attire should be in good taste — not overly revealing or sexually suggestive. If you are unsure, please consult your wedding counselor.

- 5. Thou shalt choose music that is God-centered.*
It is preferred that Christian music is used for the wedding service. A tape of the song(s) and a copy of the lyrics must be submitted to the Minister of Music for approval. This should be done several weeks in advance of your wedding in case an alternate selection needs to be made.

- 6. Thou shalt be prompt for the rehearsal and the wedding.*
This includes bridal party members, other musicians/soloists, and anyone else directly involved with your wedding. Those providing services for your wedding may have other commitments for that day, and the church usually has other services and activities scheduled. Severe lateness can result in financial penalties or postponement.

- 7. Thou shalt remember to take care of financial obligations before the wedding.*
Although Enon does not charge any fees for basic wedding services, other service providers (limousines, soloists, additional musicians, etc.) will usually need to be paid in full on the day of your wedding.

- 8. Thou shalt remember that the wedding is a religious service.*
As mentioned above, you should consider whether the components of your wedding, including decorations, etc., are appropriate for a Christian worship service.

- 9. Thou shalt discuss any changes from the normal wedding procedure with your wedding counselor before the wedding.*
There is a customary format for weddings at Enon, which will be provided to you. Any variation from that format must be approved by your wedding counselor at least two weeks in advance of the wedding services.

- 10. Thou shalt choose a wedding consultant who knows Church protocol.*
We strongly recommend that you use a wedding coordinator for your wedding. Your coordinator will help you stay organized and ensure that your wedding is a special (and relatively stress-free) day. Your wedding coordinator is also responsible for knowing Enon's wedding protocol; your Enon wedding counselor is available to review these guidelines and answer any questions.



*So... You Want To Get
Married!*



Reverend Dr. Alyn E. Waller, Senior Pastor



"The Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.' ...for this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." - Genesis 2:18, 24

Deciding to get married is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. You are about to join your life with someone else's life, believing that it is God's will for your life. The two of you enter into covenant with God, your family and friends, and your faith community to carry out the ministry of marriage.

Here at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church, we take the covenant of marriage seriously, and we want to do everything we can to 1) help you prepare yourselves to enter into covenant with one another and the Lord; and 2) ensure that your marriage service is one that honors God and brings joy to you and your family and friends.

Please take a few moments to read this brochure carefully, as it will provide you with important information that you will need to plan for your marriage. Questions can be directed to Sister Toinetta Macon at (215) 276-7200, ext. 2027.

How do I start the process?

Couples desiring to get married at Enon should start by reading this brochure thoroughly. If you meet the requirements below, please fill out the request form enclosed and return it to the church office.

- Both members of the couple must have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and made a formal profession of faith through baptism at a Christian church. At least one of the couple must be a member* of Enon Tabernacle in good standing for one year or more **before** being able to request a wedding date. You may not submit a request in anticipation of the one year anniversary of your membership.

If one member of the couple does not belong to Enon, he or she must be a member in good standing of another Christian church. This information must be indicated on the request card, and a letter of confirmation from the church must be provided. *(Please attach it to your request form.)*

- You must select a wedding date that is at least 12 months away from the date that you submit your request so that you will be able to complete your pre-marital counseling in a timely manner.
- Pre-marital counseling, at Enon, is required for any couple wishing to be married under the auspices of this church. This includes couples who will have their wedding at Enon, and couples who will have their wedding off-site, but desire Pastor Waller (or his designee) to perform the ceremony.**
- Couples who do not meet the criteria to be married under the auspices of Enon Tabernacle are still welcome to participate in pre-marital counseling. The couple is responsible for paying for their seminar materials (see below).

Once your form is received, you will receive a letter, either approving or denying your request to hold a particular date for your wedding. Please understand that the confirmation letter only affirms that we are holding the date—not that we will conduct a wedding service under any and all circumstances. Allow 2-3 weeks for your request to be processed.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the volume of weddings conducted at Enon each year, it is important that you maintain some flexibility in requesting a date for your wedding. We cannot guarantee that your first choice will be available. We do not hold weddings on Sundays, and no wedding service will be scheduled for after 1:00 p.m. on a Saturday. **Also, please be aware that all wedding services will be held at Enon Tabernacle West, 230 West Coulter Street.** We do not hold wedding services at Enon Tabernacle East, 2800 W. Cheltenham Avenue.

Please **DO NOT** begin to send out invitations or schedule any outside vendors (flowers, photographers, etc.) until you have received written confirmation that your date has been approved.



About Pre-Marital Counseling

We believe that one of the reasons that the divorce rates are so high, even among people who attend church, is because couples are often not adequately prepared to enter into—and sustain—a committed, God-honoring relationship. Marriages take work. Good marriages take a lot of work. In pre-marital counseling, you will begin to do some of that work—the work that determines if your two lives should be blended into one.

At Enon, our pre-marital sessions are conducted primarily in a seminar format (with other couples). After an initial one-on-one interview, couples are scheduled for a seminar relative to the date of their wedding. Should it be determined that further counseling is needed to resolve important issues pertaining to the relationship, additional counseling may be required.

We make every effort to schedule the foundational sessions often enough so that couples will have plenty of time to complete all of the requirements before their

wedding day. Scheduling issues/conflicts should be discussed with the wedding counselor in a timely manner. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the couple to make sure that they have attended all of the required sessions/counseling.

Couples must complete all of the required counseling in order for their wedding to take place on the scheduled date. Pre-marital counselors must give their affirmation of a couple in order for the wedding service to take place. We reserve the right to decline to conduct a wedding service for any couple whom pre-marital counselors cannot affirm is prepared to be united.

What are the costs associated with getting married at Enon?

As tithing members in good standing, there is no cost to you for any of the basic wedding services (officiate, staff musician, sexton) provided to you by Enon. However, in the event of destination or offsite weddings, a fee will be necessary. In addition, there is a small fee for the materials you will need to complete your pre-marital counseling requirements. We're sorry, but wedding receptions cannot be accommodated at the time.

**Received the right hand of fellowship.*

***Please note that while Pastor Waller sincerely desires to officiate at every Enon wedding, due to scheduling constraints, this may not be possible. However, while we cannot guarantee that Pastor Waller will be able to minister at your wedding, once we have approved your wedding taking place, we will make certain that one of Enon's ordained ministers is available to preside over the service.*



Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church
Marriage Request Form

(PLEASE PRINT. ALLOW 2-3 WEEKS FOR PROCESSING.)

Bride's Name	Groom's Name
Address	Address
City, State, Zip	City, State, Zip
Tele: (Day) _____ (Eve) _____	Tele: (Day) _____ (Eve) _____
Email	Email
Are you a member of Enon? _____ How Long? _____ If not, where is your membership and how long have you been a member there? _____	Are you a member of Enon? _____ How Long? _____ If not, where is your membership and how long have you been a member there? _____

Date & Time requested for wedding: _____ We are renewing our vows.
(We cannot process your request for a wedding or for premarital counseling without a wedding date and time.)

We would like to use the: _____ Chapel (holds 20-25) _____ Main Sanctuary

Our wedding will not be at Enon. Wedding location: _____

_____ We are requesting counseling only. _____ We request that a minister from Enon officiate at our wedding.

Rehearsal times are 5-7pm.