SAMUEL'S CHURCH
MARRIAGE CEREMONY APPLICATION

Before we approve anyone's request for marriage, we need to have the following information from each applicant:

1. Man's full name _____
2. Address _____
3. Phone ( ) _____
4. Email _____
5. Date of birth _____
6. Current occupation _____

   - length of time employed _____
7. Length of time you have dated each other_____
8. Date you desire to be married _____
9. Have you had any previous marriages? _____
   - if so, please explain on the back of this sheet the circumstances and reasons for ending the marriage(s).
10. How would you describe how things are between you and God right now?

11. If you died tonight, are you certain you would go to heaven?

    yes ____ no ____ not sure ____

12. If God asked what you are relying on to get yourself into heaven, what would you say?

13. Was there ever a time when you chose to turn from your sin to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior for the rest of your life?

    yes ____ no ____

    If yes, please describe on the back of this page the circumstances surrounding your decision to accept Jesus as your Savior.

SAMUEL'S CHURCH
MARRIAGE CEREMONY APPLICATION

Before we approve anyone's request for marriage, we need to have the following information from each applicant:

1. Woman's full name _____

2. Address _____

3. Phone ( ) _____

4. Email _____

5. Date of birth _____

6. Current occupation _____

   - length of time employed _____

7. Length of time you have dated each other_____

8. Date you desire to be married _____

9. Have you had any previous marriages? _____
   - if so, please explain on the back of this sheet the circumstances and reasons for ending the marriage(s).

10. How would you describe how things are between you and God right now?

11. If you died tonight, are you certain you would go to heaven?

    yes ____ no ____ not sure ____

12. If God asked what you are relying on to get yourself into heaven, what would you say?

13. Was there ever a time when you chose to turn from your sin to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior for the rest of your life?

    yes ____ no ____

    If yes, please describe on the back of this page the circumstances surrounding your decision to accept Jesus as your Savior.

SAMUEL'S CHURCH
WEDDING POLICY

1. Any couple seeking marriage in our church must first fill out a Marriage Application Form.
2. The Pastor reviews the completed form, and if necessary, meets with the couple to discuss any unclear matters in the areas of their present relationship with God*, their need for sexual purity before marriage, or any past divorce and remarriage.**
3. The Church Council then meets to decide whether to grant the couple's request to be married in the church.
4. Once permission has been granted from the Counsel, the couple must agree
   a. to attend the pre-marital counseling sessions with the pastor and
   b. to regularly attend the worship services of Samuel's Church until the time they get married (unless special permission is granted by the Counsel).
5. The Pastor arranges a minimum of three pre-marital counseling sessions:
   First meeting:
   The couple takes a marriage compatibility test and discuss their completed Wedding Checklist and the necessity for sexual purity before marriage
   Second meeting:
   The couple reviews their test scores from the marriage compatibility test and discussion is held on the first four marriage videos that they viewed for homework.
   Third meeting:
   The couples continues with the review of their test scores and discussion is held on the next four marriage videos that the couple viewed for homework.
   Fourth meeting
   The couples complete their review of their test scores and discussion is held on the final four marriage videos that the couple viewed for homework.

6. When two or more ministers are involved in a wedding, their statement(s) of faith will be reviewed by the Council to make sure they coincide with Samuel's Church Statement of Faith.

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*Samuel's Church wedding policy requires that couples seeking marriage in our church claim Jesus as their Savior and be committed to obeying His commands. Our reason for this is because we hold a high view of a church wedding. A couple can be married in many different places (a person's home, a park, or the office of the Justice of the Peace), but when a couple requests a church wedding, it means they want to add in the spiritual realm of honoring God. This means a church wedding is more than just a nice setting for a marriage ceremony. It is a spiritual service to God, like a worship service. Therefore, it is our view that having a church wedding without having a commitment to Jesus as Savior or without obedience to His clear commands is really to play a game. It is like asking for a military wedding without having any desire to join or honor the military. It simply would not mean anything. Our commitment is to promote God's institution of marriage, but for a couple to ask for a church wedding while being openly disobedient to God is improper. A church wedding is reserved for those who want to draw God in and honor Him in their marriage.

**See the church policy position on divorce and remarriage.

SAMUEL'S CHURCH
POSITION ON DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

We at Samuel's Church stand squarely behind making marriages work. We grieve over the destructive effect divorce brings upon a couple, their children, and the many who are touched by their lives, and we are committed to doing anything we can to assist couples to turn from divorce and work at healing their marriage. Yet, realizing that divorce is a real part of many people's lives, we at Samuel's Church adopt the following statement on divorce and remarriage.

1. Marriage was intended by God to be an unbreakable union (Matt. 19:6) for the purpose of companionship (Gen. 2:18), procreation (Gen. 2:24) and pleasure (Deut. 24:5). God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16), but allows it as an accommodation to man's sin (Mat. 19:8).

2. The only Biblical grounds for divorce are (1) fornication and (2) the desertion of an unbelieving spouse. Fornication includes all sexual perversions, such as homosexuality, bestiality, incest, as well as adultery (Mat. 5:32; 19:9). The desertion of an unbelieving spouse means a non-believer no longer desires to remain married to a Christian spouse (1 Cor. 7:15). In these two cases alone, God allows for divorce, although He certainly does not require it. The response God desires is illustrated in Hosea's treatment of his adulterous wife, Gomer. Instead of divorcing her when she committed adultery, Hosea forgave her and restored their marriage (Hosea 3:1-2). It is church policy to never advise divorce, but rather to work at restoring the one caught in sin (Gal. 6:1) and then work at restoring the marriage through forgiveness (Eph. 4:31-32).

3. Remarriage is permitted only if a divorce was based on one of the two Biblical grounds. In cases where a divorce was not on Biblical grounds, God still views the parties as married, even though the state may not. Becoming sexually involved with another or remarrying commits adultery (Mat. 19:9), and the person who marries someone divorced on nonbiblical grounds also commits adultery (Luke 16:18).

4. Believers who pursue divorce on nonbiblical grounds are subject to church discipline because they openly reject the Word of God (Mat. 18:15-17; 1 Cor. 5:1-13). The one who obtains a divorce on nonbiblical grounds and remarries lives in a state of adultery, since God still views them as married to their original spouse (Mat. 5:32; Mark 10:11,12).

5. If a divorce based on nonbiblical grounds has become final, both parties should make no attempt at justifying their action, but rather should seek God's forgiveness (1 John 1:9). God intends they either seek to reconcile their marriage or remain single (1 Cor. 7:11). If a remarriage has taken place, the person should remain faithful to his or her present marriage partner.

6. Both the innocent party of a divorce and the repentant party of a nonbiblical divorce are free to serve the Lord. Forgiveness and the ensuing privilege to serve is the right of every child of God. But since the church has a responsibility to uphold the Biblical ideal of marriage, especially in the example of its leadership, an appointment to any leadership position must be handled individually and on the basis of the person’s present character qualifications and marriage relationship.

7. Should one partner be experiencing either physical or emotional abuse that becomes intolerable, and there is no Biblical ground for divorce, that person may seek legal separation for their own protection and that of the children. Legal and/or professional help should be sought in order that reconciliation may be achieved.