

GECC Website Wedding Policy

Glen Ellen Community Church is almost 120 years old. Our Chapel and Mayflower Hall are both historic landmarks in the town of Glen Ellen, California. Both buildings are available for weddings and receptions. Reservations are required. Please contact Pastor Jim to make your reservation. To avoid a conflict of dates with other weddings or church activities, it is to your advantage to make reservations as soon as possible. Due to the maximum seating capacity of 90 people, wedding parties larger than this will not be permitted.

What We Believe:

We believe that Jesus Christ is both Son of God and Son of Man. His humanity and death on the cross made reconciliation with God possible for all. Those who repent from sin, and believe in Him (Jesus), receive forgiveness and acceptance into the Kingdom of Heaven. We believe that Christ will come again at the end of this age. He will come in power as Judge and King. Those outside of the Kingdom of God will find eternal condemnation, but those redeemed by the blood of Christ...their reward will be everlasting glory.

Glen Ellen Community Church seeks to glorify Christ and make His ways known. We are firmly convinced that His ways, as expressed in the Bible are good and right, and for our benefit. We therefore seek to reflect that in the use of our facilities and in the weddings that are performed here.

Therefore, weddings at Glen Ellen Community Church are to be Christian weddings, marrying a man and a woman who are both, committed and faithful followers of Jesus Christ under the biblical guidelines for marriage. This means that the couple are in fellowship and worship regularly at their home church, are professing believers of Christ Jesus, and they live their lives in accordance with Biblical principles.

Questions regarding this policy should be brought to Pastor Jim who will cordially refer to the scriptures for what God has already declared regarding His plan for marriage in the church.

Pre-marital Counseling

Pre-marital counseling is mandatory for couples being married at Glen Ellen Community Church. The number and length of the counseling sessions is dependent upon the couple and their life experience. After the first session, Pastor Jim will establish with the couple a tailored program which meets both the needs of the couple, and the requirements of the leadership of Glen Ellen Community Church. Pre-marital counseling may be done by another pastor – usually one from the couple’s home church. Pastor Jim will be in

contact with the recommended pastor to ensure compliance with Glen Ellen Community Church standards.

Also, another pastor may perform the wedding ceremony upon review and approval of Pastor Jim.

Our goal is to help you prepare for a God-honoring marriage, as well as a worshipful wedding. The initial interview should take place at least four (4) months prior to the proposed wedding day. We are excited to have the opportunity to help you fulfill your wedding/marriage commitment. We believe that meaningful prayer, as well as proper and thoughtful preparation, creates a wonderful and worshipful wedding.

- Rules -

Smoking, drinking of alcoholic beverages, use of narcotics or any illegal substance is prohibited on church property. Should this policy be violated, the church reserves the right to cancel the wedding ceremony. Please inform your party of this policy.

We request that no rice and/or bird seed be thrown inside the church. Birdseed is permitted outside the church.

If you wish to use candles, you must purchase dripless candles only. (The church does not supply candles.)

The wedding party will be required to set up the Mayflower Hall to their specific needs prior to the wedding.

Please do not remove Hymn books - Bibles - Pictures, or any other church property from the premises.

Permission must be granted for use of any Sound System equipment. A brief training will be provided at no extra cost.

Any equipment or church property damaged will need to be repaired or replaced by those renting the facility. Settlement must be reached within four (4) weeks after the damage.

Pastor Jim is your contact person.

See that everything you wish to keep or use elsewhere is removed from the church before leaving for the reception.

Any and all items that are removed for the ceremony must be returned to their original location. (You may wish to speak with the Pastor concerning items that cannot be moved.)

Dressing

We have limited space for dressing. The ladies may find it convenient to dress in the stage area in Mayflower Hall. We recommend checking for yourself to see if it is feasible for your use. Men in the wedding party will find it most convenient to come to the church already dressed in their wedding attire.

The License

You must obtain the license at the County Clerk's office in the County Courthouse. Pastor Jim will keep the original copy after all required signatures have been obtained and will send you a copy as well as mailing the original to the county.

The Rehearsal

Normally, the rehearsal will be the evening before the wedding. The Pastor and the Wedding Coordinator provided by the church will be in charge of the rehearsal unless other arrangements are made. Everyone that is a member of the wedding party is required to be at the rehearsal.

Fees

Use of the Chapel is \$450.00. Use of Mayflower Hall is \$450.00. (Rental fees are waived for members of the Glen Ellen Community Church.) Pianist and Pastor fees are not included and must be negotiated separately.

The Chapel seats approximately 90 people comfortably.

The Hall is equipped with a kitchen and the dining area seats approximately 60-70.

There are no weddings on Sunday.

If you wish to have our Pastor officiate at your ceremony, please contact him directly at the church phone number (707) 996-1479. A preliminary interview will be scheduled to meet with him. If the Pastor agrees to perform the wedding, other premarital meetings will be scheduled in order for you and him to get to know one another. It is important to give him ample notice of the wedding date. The fee for his services are to be negotiated with him. Be advised that the Pastor reserves the right to refuse to perform the ceremony at any point during the process.

If you wish to use our church pianist or other musicians, it will be necessary for you to contact them individually. Fees for their services will be negotiated with them.

Any and all preparation for the wedding needs to be arranged in advance no later than six (6) weeks prior to the use of the facility. A description of church equipment available for use will be discussed when arrangements are made.

Receipt of the Wedding Registration Form and ENTIRE Fees guarantees your date, *but please call first to make your reservation.* Until fees are received, all dates are considered tentative. As dates for weddings are on a first come first served basis, we suggest you return the form and fees as soon as possible to hold your date.

Should the wedding be canceled within:

4 months prior to your wedding date, all fees are refundable.

3 months prior to your wedding date, \$75.00 of the fees will be withheld.

2 months prior to your wedding date, \$125.00 of the fees will be withheld.

1 month prior to your wedding date, \$200.00 of the fees will be withheld.

2 weeks prior to your wedding date, NO fees will be refunded.