OFFICIATE FORM

CITYLIGHT CHURCH Weddings

We are grateful for your desire to pursue a Citylight pastor or staff member to officiate your wedding and walk with you as you prepare for marriage.

Though our culture has evolving definitions of marriage, we believe that it is God alone who has the ultimate authority to define and describe the marital relationship (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:1-9; Mark 10:1-12). Because of this understanding, we will only officiate marriages that meet a biblical definition of marriage as:

> *a lifelong covenant commitment made before God between one man and one woman for His name and glory. According to the bible, God devised marriage to reflect his saving love for us in Christ, to refine our character as we are conformed more into His image, to create stable human community in the context of a family for the birth and nurture of children, and to accomplish all this by bringing the complementary sexes into an enduring whole-life union.*[1]

The pastors and staff of Citylight Church will only participate in weddings that meet this definition. We will also only officiate weddings for covenant members and regular attenders of Citylight Church. If you are not a member or regular attender of Citylight, we would ask you to reach out to a church that you presently attend or are connected with.

If you wish to ask a Citylight pastor or staff member to officiate your wedding, there are a set of commitments that we ask of the couple. The commitments are as follows:

1. **Both future Husband and Wife are Christ Followers**: We strongly believe in the union of Christians with Christians. 2 Corinthians 6:14 says; "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" Though this verse is not specifically about marriage, it is about fellowship and you will not have closer fellowship than a marriage relationship.

2. **Participation in Both the Gathered and Scattered Church**: We believe that the church is not a place, but rather the church is the people of God living out the mission of God. This is why we gather on Sundays to worship God through the preaching of His word, the singing of songs, and by observing the communion and baptism. We also scattered throughout the week into City Groups which are communities who are transformed by the gospel, growing as a spiritual family, and seeking to live on mission together. We believe that the gospel saves, transforms and empowers, and that spiritual formation, community, and mission are essential parts of a healthy walk with the Lord and healthy marriage.

3. **Premarital Counseling:** As defined by our definition of marriage above, we believe that marriage is a lifelong covenant commitment before God between one man and one woman for His name and glory. In light of this we ask that all couples complete premarital counseling as you prepare for marriage. Premarital counseling is available through a bi-annual Premarital Class offered on Sunday mornings. Upon completion of the class, you will be paired with a mentor couple who will meet with you for 4-5 individual meetings.

---

[1] Definition of marriage adapted from *The Meaning of Marriage* by Tim Keller.

4. **Commitment to Physical Purity**: Hebrews 13:4 states: “Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure.” Any sexual activity outside of marriage is against God’s perfect design for us. We are told multiple times in scripture to flee from sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 6:18, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 4:19). If this has been something that you struggle with now or in the past, the grace of Jesus Christ covers all sin, and we would ask that you commit to purity in your relationship until your wedding day. If you are cohabitating with your future spouse this will mean finding alternative living arrangements until your wedding day as you pursue physical purity.

Officiant Fees

- There is a minimum honorarium of $400 for a pastor or staff person to officiate a wedding in Omaha and a minimum honorarium of $450 for a wedding outside of Omaha. Checks should be made payable to the officiate (not the church) and either given to them directly or mailed to the church office: 4383 Nicholas St. Ste. 203, Omaha, NE 68131. When sending a check to the office, please include a note describing the nature of the payment.

- If your wedding will be held in the evening and is more than 2 hours from Omaha, please make lodging accommodations for the pastor (and his family if needed). A copy of these arrangements should be given directly to the officiate.

Please acknowledge that you have read and understand the commitments and honorarium for your officiant

I understand the above commitments _____ _____

Next Steps

Once you have read through the above commitments, reach out to the pastor or staff member below whom you'd like to request. Prior to meeting, print off and sign these documents and bring to your meeting with your officiant

Officiant List

The following is a list of Citylight pastors and staff available to officiate wedding ceremonies. **Please contact them directly** to inquire about their availability and to make arrangements. *We always recommend reaching out to a pastor or staff person that you already have a personal connection with.*

Joe Julian	Executive Pastor	joe@citylightomaha.org
Sam Reece	West Citygroup Director	sam@citylightomaha.org
Willy Roberts	West Worship Pastor	willy@citylightomaha.org
Ryan Nordstrom	Midtown Worship Director	ryan@citylightomaha.org
Matt LaPine	Midtown DE & Men’s Director	matthew@citylightomaha.org
Travis Eller	Midtown Campus Pastor	travis@citylightomaha.org
Brad Zook	Care Director	brad.zook@citylightomaha.org
Tim Raglin	Citylight Church Elder	tmraglin@gmail.com
Alec Holloway	Salt Co Director	alec.holloway@citylightomaha.org
Chris Hruska	Co-lead Pastor	
Gavin Johnson	Co-Lead Pastor	
		Email Executive Assistant
		lori@citylightomaha.org