

**Vineyard Northwest Weddings**  
2019

Hello!

We are so excited that you want to get married at Vineyard Northwest and/or by a Vineyard Northwest marrying pastor! Getting married is a wonderful and significant step in life. We want to honor marriage and help you have a successful and lifelong marriage. Thank you for the trust you've put on us to lead you through our premarital process!

It is our pleasure to be able to assist you as you plan your wedding day! This wedding planning packet will guide us through the process of working together. Please read it carefully and turn in the General Information portion, Ceremony Request portion (pages 4-8), and Symbis Assessment payment (if applicable) to the Vineyard Northwest office. Please allow 2 weeks for your wedding request to be approved. You will be contacted by email to schedule coordinating meetings once your request is approved.

Congratulations to you both!

**Jennifer Cochrane**

Wedding Coordinator

Vineyard Church Northwest  
9165 Round Top Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45251  
jennifer@vcnw.org  
Phone 513.385.4888  
Fax 513.385.4854

# Wedding Guidelines

**This is to help you get to know our view of marriage and the process of getting married at Vineyard Northwest. Please read this portion of the packet before requesting your ceremony.**

## **The Importance of Marriage**

Our desire is to see every couple we marry have a Christ-centered, life-long and satisfying relationship that can weather the storms of life. We've developed an approach that is designed to help the couple deepen their relationship as well as identify and begin to work through potential problems prior to the wedding. We believe that good preparation before the wedding and a good support system after are keys to a happy, growing, and successful marriage.

## **What is Marriage?**

We are a Christian church committed to the values of the Bible as we read and understand them. In line with our beliefs and with the Association of Vineyard Churches, of which we are a part, we believe the Bible teaches that marriage is a covenantal union between a man (born as an "anatomical male") and a women (born as an "anatomical female").

As well, we believe that sexual intimacy is a gift from God intended to be experienced only within the marriage relationship. Couples being married at Vineyard Northwest will be counseled and expected to practice sexual abstinence prior to marriage. Sexual intimacy prior to marriage can sabotage a couple's growth in the areas of spiritual and emotional closeness. By choosing to abstain sexually, a couple can develop greater intimacy in emotional and spiritual ways; honor God by their lifestyle choice, and enjoy a freshness and purity in their sexual union on their wedding night.

## **Where Does the Church Fit In?**

We believe that a meaningful church relationship is an important factor in any successful Christian marriage. So we think it's best to first find the church that works for you as a couple, and then begin the marriage preparation process in the context of that church body. When couples with little or no previous connection to Vineyard Northwest inquire about the prospect of getting married here, we ask them to first attend weekend services at Vineyard Northwest for at least 2-3 months to see if this church is the right fit for them.

## **Weddings at the Vineyard Northwest Facility**

It's important to recognize that the primary purpose for the use of the church facility is the spiritual development of the whole church body through worship, teaching, discipleship, outreach through Sunday services and planned ministry events throughout the week. Due to the number of ministry events held at the church on an ongoing basis, we've found it necessary to limit weddings to couples that are regular attenders and/or members of Vineyard Northwest.

# Marriage Preparation

## **Our first step for you!**

In order to prepare well for your marriage, we require that all engaged couples complete the marriage preparation offered at Vineyard Northwest before making plans and setting your wedding date. The marriage prep we offer has two parts: first, both individuals complete The SYMBIS Assessment (short for Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts), and then the couple participates in a series of discussions (3 to 5 - 60 minute sessions) of the assessment results with a trained and certified facilitator from Vineyard Northwest.

## **To get started...**

The cost of the SYMBIS Assessment is \$35.00/couple. To get started, please mail your payment to Vineyard Northwest or turn it into the church office with your General Information Sheet and Ceremony Request. Once we have received your payment, we will send the SYMBIS Assessment link to your email. Each partner will be invited to complete his or her assessment online. Once you have both completed the assessment online, you will be asked by email to schedule the meetings with the facilitator.

If you have already completed another marriage preparation course, great! Please provide a copy of the completion certificate so that we are aware.

*Please keep this portion of the packet for your information.*

# Vineyard Northwest Weddings

Bride's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please fill out the rest of this packet (pages 4-8 )and turn it into  
the Vineyard Northwest office.*

# General Information Sheet

**Please tell us a little about yourselves.**

Full name of the Bride \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Current address \_\_\_\_\_

Place of employment \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of the Groom \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Current address \_\_\_\_\_

Place of employment \_\_\_\_\_

Your address after the wedding \_\_\_\_\_

Are you born again believers? Groom \_\_\_\_\_ Bride \_\_\_\_\_

Are you members of Vineyard Northwest? Groom \_\_\_\_\_ Bride \_\_\_\_\_

Do you currently attend a Vineyard Northwest House Group? If so, which one?

Groom \_\_\_\_\_ Bride \_\_\_\_\_

**The following questions are not meant to shame you, but are sober pieces of information that we need to know before going forward in the process of planning your wedding.**

Is this your first marriage? \_\_\_\_\_

If not, how long were you previously married? \_\_\_\_\_

How did your previous marriage(s) end? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you and your fiance having sexual intercourse? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently living together? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there any other information about yourselves or your wedding situation that you think might be helpful to provide?

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**Pre-marital counseling**

- Please read the Wedding Guidelines portion of this packet. Check once completed.

What questions do you have about the Wedding Guidelines?

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Have you completed a marriage preparation class or pre-marital counseling outside of what is currently offered here at Vineyard Northwest?

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If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Date completed \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

# Ceremony Request

**Tell us about your plans once you have completed the SYMBIS Marriage Preparation.**

Please remember that onsite wedding dates are subject to the availability of the church facility and a marrying pastor. Building use dates cannot normally be set more than 9 months in advance. Off-site wedding dates are subject to marrying pastor availability.

Are you requesting to have your ceremony at the Vineyard Northwest facility? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what is the desired date & time of your wedding ceremony? (Note: Saturday weddings cannot begin earlier than 1:30pm, due to auditorium usage.) Please list two options.

First preference date & time \_\_\_\_\_

Second preference date & time \_\_\_\_\_

If you are having your ceremony off-site, where do you plan to have it?

\_\_\_\_\_

Who is the desired marrying pastor to officiate your ceremony? (See list below.) Please list two options.

First preference \_\_\_\_\_

Second preference \_\_\_\_\_

The following is a list of the Vineyard Northwest Pastors that are licensed and available to perform wedding ceremonies in the State of Ohio.

Van Cochrane	Luke Haselmayer
Laurie Cochrane	Amanda Patten
Wilson Cochrane	Jordan Pelphrey
Sarah Anderson	