



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Guidelines for the Sacrament of Marriage (Updated October 2026)

Basic Elements of All Sacraments

- Tangible sign or symbol of God's grace revealed in Jesus Christ
- Grounded in the ministry of Jesus Christ
- Spoken words of blessing and petition; articulation of the covenant involved and related opportunities, responsibilities, and promises
- Eligible priesthood members perform the sacrament.
- Spiritual anticipation and preparation in a worship setting

Official Name: Sacrament of Marriage

Description: The sacrament through which the church recognizes the covenantal and legal joining of a couple in marriage unless it conflicts with the principles and policies of the church. Marriage traditionally is defined as a lifelong, monogamous commitment between two people of mutual support, love, and faithfulness. The sacrament of marriage includes covenants made between God and:

1. the two people legally entering the marriage; and
2. the couple and the supporting family, friends, and congregation/community.

Legal requirements, customs, and traditions associated with marriage vary widely throughout the world. Regardless of location, the wedding service or ceremony should uphold the sacred and covenantal nature of the sacrament of marriage. Where same-gender marriage is permitted by local and national laws, Community of Christ allows it without any further action or the prerequisite of a national conference.

Scriptural Foundations: Matthew 19:4–6; Mark 10:6–9; John 2:1–11; IV Nephi 1:12; Doctrine and Covenants 111; 164:6

Sacrament Universals

- Connection to God and all of God's creation
- God's desire to bless people with wholeness
- God's self-revelation and interaction with humanity
- Connection to past, present, and future generations
- Recognition of God's grace and saving activity among us
- Acknowledgement of the Holy amid the ordinary
- Covenanting between the Divine and humans, humans and the Divine, and humans with each other

Primary Symbols

Priesthood offers the sacrament.

Community of Christ Particulars Required

- Premarital preparation, which includes spiritual and sacramental preparation for the couple with the officiating minister.
- Inclusion of an authorized covenant statement in the wedding service.

Authorized Traditional Statement (D&C 111:2b)

Do “You both mutually agree to be each other’s companion, husband and wife, observing the legal rights belonging to this condition; that is, keeping yourselves wholly for each other, and from all others, during your lives?”

Two additional authorized covenant statements are provided to accommodate different cultural understandings and modern word usage:

Authorized Statement with “Husband and Wife” Included Based on D&C 111:2b

Do “You both mutually agree to be each other’s companion, husband and wife, observing the principles, responsibilities, and rights belonging to this condition; including, keeping yourselves wholly for each other, and from all others, during your lives?”

Authorized Statement with “Marriage Companion” Used Based on D&C 111:2b

Do “You both mutually agree to be each other’s marriage companion, observing the principles, responsibilities, and rights belonging to this condition; including, keeping yourselves wholly for each other, and from all others, during your lives?”

- After the couple answers the authorized covenant statement in the affirmative, the officiating minister pronounces the couple married and typically offers this blessing (Doctrine and Covenants 111:2d adapted): *“May God add God’s blessings and keep you to fulfill your covenants from henceforth and forever. Amen”*
- The sacrament of marriage is the primary focus of a communal worship experience.
- Melchisedec priesthood members and Aaronic priests officiate at wedding services.
- A marriage must be legalized when a sacrament of marriage is performed.

Additional Guidance from the First Presidency

In addition to the basic information above, the following guidelines are provided to address specific questions that have arisen throughout the worldwide church.

- Honor national, state, province, and local government laws and requirements for a legal marriage.
- Priesthood members can choose to perform a marriage when asked but are also free to decline.
- Monogamy is the basic principle on which Christian married life is built (D&C 150:10a).

- Priesthood members are not authorized to perform proxy marriages. In nations where proxy marriages are legal and must be conducted by civil authorities, Community of Christ priesthood members are not authorized to provide a sacrament of marriage service using a proxy. Definition: A proxy is giving authority to a person to physically represent the recipient of the sacrament or represent the priesthood member(s) performing the sacrament when the recipient and priesthood member(s) are not physically present with each other.
- Record the sacrament details in membership records or according to established procedures in the nation or mission center.
- Requests for exceptions to these principles and guidelines need to be submitted through the mission center president and apostle to the World Church Secretary for consideration by the First Presidency.

Online Participation in the Sacrament of Marriage

“Technology presents opportunities for involvement in sacraments by priesthood members and participants in separate locations” (2019 words of counsel). This may occur in many ways. The following principles should be observed when planning and providing for online or hybrid (in-person and online) participation in the sacrament of marriage:

1. Sacraments are provided in the spirit and context of worship.
2. Priesthood members are required to comply with all local government requirements for providing an online marriage ceremony, officiating a marriage, and ensuring that legal documentation is met.
3. The Community of Christ particulars must be accomplished.
4. The use of technology during the period of preparation for the marriage couple may include audio or video sessions and online courses.
5. Requests for exceptions to these principles and guidelines need to be submitted through the mission center president and apostle to the World Church secretary for consideration by the First Presidency.