



Wedding Preparations

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding!

It is an incredible privilege to share this sacred moment of your lives. We want to partner with you to provide the best possible ceremony.

In order to help you design a wedding and reception that captures the fullness of all that they are intended to be, we have listed some practical advice to assist you in your planning and preparation.

Marriage License

You will need to apply for a marriage license from the State of Hawaii. Keep in mind that the license expires 30 days from and including the date of issuance, and it is only valid in the State of Hawaii. A common mistake couples make is applying for the license too soon.

You may apply for your license online by going to: <https://emrs.ehawaii.gov/emrs/public/home.html> or in person at Hawaii State Department of Health, 1250 Punchbowl Street, Honolulu, HI 96813.

Please be sure to bring your license to the wedding ceremony. The Wedding Officiant will sign the license after the ceremony and electronically file it for you. You may check on the status of your marriage certificate and print a temporary certificate online.

****Note:** If you are getting married out-of-state, please check the marriage license requirements for that particular state.

Premarital Preparations

Preparing for your marriage in a meaningful way includes examining the core beliefs of your lives, as they will affect the way you live and relate to one another. We reserve the right to decline marrying a couple we feel is not ready or fit to be married, and we do not marry a Christian with a non-Christian (2 Corinthians 6:14). Further discussion may be held to provide clarity towards this and help determine if this does or doesn't apply to your situation.

In order for one of our pastors to marry you, we require you to go through premarital coaching. It truly is the best investment you can make in your marriage. The cost for the coaching is approximately \$40-60 for a set of books and workbooks and includes approximately 6 sessions (1 ½ hours each). If you completed premarital coaching from another church, we require a letter from your premarital coaches or pastor from your church prior to the wedding.

If you would like to talk more about any of these preparation elements, please don't hesitate to contact our Pastoral Care office at 484-0061.

The Wedding Ceremony

We are committed to making your wedding ceremony a special and meaningful moment. We want to design a wedding ceremony and script that remains true to eternal truths and principles of love and marriage and yet is also compatible with your personal convictions and relational journey. Here are some specific information regarding the planning of the ceremony:

- We ask that your wedding ceremony be held on a day other than Sunday morning, as the primary function of our pastors on Sundays is to minister to the general congregation, and we have multiple services to consider.
- Some couples choose to write their own vows. If you decide to write your own, we request that we have a chance to review them prior to the wedding to make sure they communicate the gravity of the commitment you are about to make.
- It's important to choose an "event manager" or "wedding planner" to help you with your wedding ceremony and reception. This is a friend you can lean on. Your only job on your wedding day should be to get dressed and get married.
- A typical wedding that we perform runs anywhere between 15 to 30 minutes depending on the various things you want to include in your ceremony. We strongly recommend that the ceremony go no longer than 30 minutes.
- Although we recommend a wedding rehearsal, it is not required that the Wedding Officiant be there. We typically do not attend the rehearsal except by special request. Our role is relatively straight-forward and can be talked about prior to the wedding. During the ceremony the Wedding Officiant will talk you through everything in a very simple way so there's nothing for you to remember or keep track of. The main reason for a rehearsal is to clarify and practice the seating of family, processional, where to stand, and the recessional.
- Last but not least, remember that your wedding ceremony is celebratory as well as a sacred moment. That doesn't mean it will will not have its imperfections.... It's typically the "mistakes" of a wedding that can give it "personality" and make it memorable. Above all keep a good attitude and enjoy the ride, even if every detail doesn't completely go according to plan.
- Having a "Master of Ceremonies" to carryout your program and keep your reception on schedule is essential. Write an outline of your program which may include: introduction of the head table, prayer, toast, cake cutting, bouquet and garter throwing, "thank-you's" including out of town guests, music/entertainment and dance.

Honorarium Etiquette

We consider marrying a couple a genuine honor and act of service. That means that any gift given to us is not "payment for services rendered," it's truly a gift. General wedding etiquette does include considering a gift to the Officiant, however the amount of the gift can vary greatly. Most couples ask us what amount we are typically given for a wedding. We'll pass along our personal experience as a reference for your financial considerations: 1) We've normally received anywhere between \$200-\$500 as an honorarium. Please don't view this as our expectation, but simply as something to help give you perspective. You would decide whether to give the honorarium directly to the Wedding Officiant or to Grace Bible Church Pearlside. 2) If the wedding is out of town, it's important to include the Officiant's travel and accommodation expenses in your budget, apart from any gift you give.

I hope this information/advice is helpful for you in planning your wedding, and we look forward to working with you to create a wedding that your heart desires.

Sincerely,

Grace Bible Church Pearlside Pastoral Team



Dear Engaged Couple,

Congratulations on your decision to take the next step in your relationship. Marriage is the second biggest decision in life, the first being the decision to receive and follow Jesus Christ.

Our Premarital Coaching Ministry helps couples begin laying the foundation for a successful and enduring marriage through the process of discovery, discussion and decisions. We would be honored to be a part of your journey together as a couple. If you would like to proceed, please complete the attached forms: Engaged Couple Survey, Informed Consent, and Covenant of Commitment and Completion. All 3 forms must be completed, signed, and returned to our church office before the premarital coaching process begins.

If you would like one of our pastors to officiate your wedding ceremony, you must complete all of the coaching sessions and receive a favorable recommendation from your coaches. We also ask that your wedding ceremony be held on a day other than Sunday morning, as the primary function of our pastors on Sundays is to minister to the general congregation, and we have multiple services to consider.

Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to partnering with you in preparation for your marriage and life together.

God Bless,

Pastors Kathy Abe and William Pacarro & the Pastoral Services Team

PRE-MARITAL COACHING (PMC) INFORMATION ("What happens next?")

When should an Engaged Couple (EC) submit a request for Pre-Marital Coaching (PMC)?

We would prefer that the request be submitted a minimum of *6 months before a desired wedding date*. This would allow time to find the right Coaches for you, ample time for personal discovery, and for weekly or bi-weekly coaching sessions that run an average of 8. (Additional sessions may be needed to address special circumstances).

What happens after the required forms are submitted to the GBCP office?

1. We will set up a "face to face" meeting with you after a Sunday service.
2. We will identify the best available Coaches for you. **NOTE:** Coaches are not "professional counselors" so they will not "counsel" you but will rather "coach" you from their own marriage experience and wisdom.
3. The Coaches will contact you to set up the coaching sessions with you.
4. The PMC sessions begin.

What materials are required before the sessions begin?

The [Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts](#) books (2) and workbooks (1 for groom, 1 for bride) may be purchased at the GBCP office. Please read the book and then individually complete the corresponding assignment in the workbook BEFORE each coaching session begins. Reserve sharing your answers with one another until your coaching session. This helps ensure honest and candid answers that help to discover areas of agreements and challenges.

Things to consider:

- Be sure to get a State of Hawaii Marriage License from the Department of Health at least 30 days before wedding date. This is a legal requirement of the State.
- Procuring a wedding site and reception hall is a long-term process, so plan accordingly. These places need request for reservations well in advance.



ENGAGED COUPLE PROFILE SURVEY

_____ GBCP Members (completed ROOTED course)

_____ Referred by GBCP Member's Name _____

*Planned wedding date: _____ / _____ / _____ Location: _____ Time: _____

**Please be aware that GBCP Pastors are unavailable to perform wedding ceremonies on Sunday mornings due to their primary responsibilities of ministering to the general congregation in church services. Grace Bible Church Pearlside Pastors will not perform wedding ceremonies for minors "under the age of 18".*

GROOM'S INFORMATION

Full Name: _____ Phone: _____

Birthdate: _____ / _____ / _____ Age: _____ Birthplace: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Grace Group Leader: _____

Occupation: _____ Is this your first marriage? YES _____ NO _____

Parents: Still Married _____ Divorced _____ Amount of siblings you have: Brothers _____ Sisters _____

High School attended: _____ College/Degree: _____

Hobbies, Interests, etc.: _____

BRIDE'S INFORMATION

Full Name: _____ Phone: _____

Birthdate: _____ / _____ / _____ Age: _____ Birthplace: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Grace Group Leader: _____

Occupation: _____ Is this your first marriage? YES _____ NO _____

Parents: Still Married _____ Divorced _____ Amount of siblings you have: Brothers _____ Sisters _____

High School attended: _____ College/Degree: _____

Hobbies, Interests, etc.: _____

Please email this form to info@pearlside.org or mail to 98-751 Kuahao Pl. Pearl City, HI 96782 and write "Attn: Premarital Coaching" on envelope.



PREMARITAL COACHING INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Grace Bible Church Pearlside (GBCP) believes that strong, healthy marriages lead to strong, healthy families that can then lead to a strong, healthy church that influences the marriages and families in our society.

The mission of the Premarital Coaching ministry of GBCP is to help engaged couples (EC) discover a clear picture of who they are as individuals and to bring awareness of the potential victories and challenges they may face once married. In this journey of discovery with the assistance of an assigned Premarital Coach (PMC), honesty, transparency, and diligence are very important.

For a couple to have their wedding performed by a GBCP Pastor, the completion of the coaching sessions and the recommendation of the assigned PMC are necessary. If during the coaching sessions an engaged couple seems to display "irreconcilable differences" or high levels of relational concerns, a recommendation maybe withheld until further progress.

Our PMC couples are not professional counselors and should not be viewed as that, but are selected couples who have received premarital coaches training and have great wisdom, insight, and experience to share from their own marriage. At times the PMC may ask some challenging questions to solicit a response or information that they feel the EC needs to address or acknowledge. Confidentiality and compassion are the guardrails of this journey.

To ensure the Premarital Coaching ministry, the PMC, and the EC are on the same page, we need your consent before beginning Premarital Coaching. Please read the following and sign if you give consent.

1. Confidentiality: Information revealed by you in coaching sessions with your PMC will be kept strictly confidential and will not be revealed to any other person. Issues involving crime, physical or verbal abuse, personal safety and/or harm, and child abuse/elder abuse will be shared with the PMC Pastors upon the discretion of the PMC.
2. Withdrawal: You can choose to end the coaching sessions and/or relationship with your PMC at any time. Please send a written notification and reasons to the PMC Pastors. Note: Your PMC can also end the coaching sessions if they determine the "fit" between the EC and PMC is not appropriate and/or beneficial.
3. Commitment and Availability: Coaching sessions run an average of 8 weeks, depending on issues discovered and being addressed. Once a day, time, and place has been agreed upon by the EC and PMC, the expectation and commitment is that both parties will meet to discuss completed textbook reading and workbook exercises (purchase at church office) at the coaching sessions. If you will be late, please inform your PMC as soon as possible. If you cannot make a session, please give your PMC a minimum of a 24-hour notice. If you miss 2 consecutive sessions and/or consistently cancel sessions, your PMC may withdraw from coaching you. Communication and cooperation is important.

We agree to these conditions and give our consent:

_____	_____	_____
Groom Print Name	Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Bride Print Name	Signature	Date



COVENANT OF COMMITMENT AND COMPLETION OF PRE-MARITAL COACHING

The GBCP Pre-Marital Coaching process requires time and commitment to be beneficial, impactful, and effective in helping you discover, discuss, and make decisions as a couple to give you a solid start in your journey of marriage.

Our Pre-Marital Coaches have a desire to help you and are willing to commit time, energy, and prayer to the process. This entails our coaches to make room in their family schedules to meet. Once a meeting is arranged and agreed upon with your Coaches, we ask you to keep and attend the scheduled meeting. (Please treat as you would a medical doctor’s appointment.)

Now sometimes changes in life will change schedules, and then the length of the coaching process, usually 8 weekly sessions, may have to be adjusted and weeks added on to complete all sessions. In the event the wedding date happens before the last session, we ask that you commit to complete all unfinished sessions even after the wedding date.

We, _____ and _____

have read and understand the Premarital Coaching process and this covenant.

We commit to prepare and attend every scheduled session with our Pre-Marital Coaches.

We also covenant and commit to complete all necessary sessions, even after our wedding date if needed.

Groom Print Name

Signature

Date

Bride Print Name

Signature

Date

Please email this form to info@pearlside.org or mail to 98-751 Kuahao Pl. Pearl City, HI 96782 and write "Attn: Premarital Coaching" on envelope.