

New Hope Chapel



Wedding Process & Planning Guide

Congratulations on this exciting season as you prepare for your wedding ceremony and future marriage together. We are honored that you are considering New Hope Chapel to be part of this important moment in your lives.

If you would like a New Hope pastor to officiate your wedding, or if you are interested in hosting your wedding at New Hope Chapel, please follow the process outlined below.

1. Submit a Wedding Inquiry

To begin, each of you will complete the Wedding Inquiry Form at:

newhopeplymouth.com/weddings

This questionnaire helps our pastors learn more about your relationship, spiritual background, and desired wedding plans.

2. Initial Review & Meeting

After reviewing your questionnaire, a pastor may schedule an initial meeting with you to discuss:

- Your relationship history
- Your spiritual life and church involvement
- Your vision for marriage
- General marriage readiness and preparation
- Any important pastoral or relational considerations

This conversation helps determine next steps and whether a New Hope pastor is able to officiate your wedding.

3. Premarital Preparation

Couples are required to complete premarital counseling as directed by the officiating pastor. This process is intended to prepare couples spiritually, emotionally, relationally, and practically for covenant marriage.

Depending on the couple and pastor, preparation may include:

- Counseling sessions
- Marriage assessments or questionnaires
- Recommended books or resources
- Additional pastoral conversations

Premarital assessments are typically used by our pastors as part of the counseling process. These tools help identify strengths, growth areas, and important topics for discussion as couples prepare for marriage. When an assessment is used, couples are responsible for the associated cost, which will be communicated in advance.

Couples are encouraged to begin the wedding process as early as possible to allow adequate time for preparation before the wedding date.

4. Scheduling & Coordination

Once a pastor has agreed to officiate the wedding, couples should coordinate schedules as early as possible regarding:

- Wedding dates
- Ceremony times
- Rehearsal scheduling
- Venue planning
- Counseling meetings

If your wedding is taking place at another church or venue, please confirm any officiating requirements or restrictions directly with that location.

5. Wedding Venue Information

New Hope Chapel facilities may be available for weddings, rehearsals, or related events depending on scheduling and availability.

For venue availability or facility questions, please contact:
newhopeplymouth@gmail.com

Additional facility policies and expectations may apply.

6. Marriage Licenses

Couples are responsible for obtaining and properly processing all legal marriage documents and licenses required by the state in which the ceremony takes place.

New Hope pastors are not responsible for filing or processing wedding licenses.

7. Out-of-Town Weddings

Some pastors may be available to officiate out-of-town weddings while others may not. Availability should be discussed directly with the officiating pastor as early as possible.

Couples are responsible for any agreed-upon travel expenses, accommodations, and logistical details associated with out-of-town ceremonies.

8. Honorariums

The suggested honorarium for the officiating pastor is generally \$250–500 and is paid directly to the pastor. This accounts for the pre-marital counseling sessions, wedding ceremony planning, rehearsal leading up the wedding, and overseeing and ordaining of the wedding ceremony.

If financial hardship exists, couples are encouraged to discuss this openly with their pastor.

9. Rehearsals & Ceremony Planning

The officiating pastor will generally coordinate and lead the wedding rehearsal at an agreed-upon time.

Prior to the wedding day, couples should discuss:

- Ceremony structure
- Vows and readings
- Music selections
- Photography and videography
- Special ceremony elements

Please plan for the wedding party to arrive at least one hour prior to the ceremony unless otherwise discussed.

While pastors may not always be available for rehearsal dinners or receptions, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve you during this important season.

For any questions please contact nextsteps@atnewhope.com or call **508-830-4644**

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